

Stocks fall as European financial crisis expands

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On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Saturday, May 14, 2011

FBI No Show



The apartment complex where Ahmed C. Ferhani lives is seen in the Whitestone neighborhood of Queens, New York, on Thursday, May 12, 2011. Ferhani, along Mohamed Mamdouh, were arrested on May 11 by the New York Police Department and have been accused of buying firearms and grenades as a part of an alleged plan to blow up numerous synagogues in New York.

(AP Photo/Andrew Burton)

By TOM HAYS,
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The latest terrorism arrests in New York were announced with the fanfare of a City Hall news conference, a dramatic photo of a broad daylight takedown by police and reassurance from local law enforcement officials that a serious threat had been neutralized.

Only one thing was missing: the FBI.

The FBI's glaring absence at the announcement and silence since then about the arrests of two men described by police as raving anti-Semites and would-be jihadists bent on attacking a synagogue raised questions Friday about the severity of the threat and the strength of the case.

Continued on Page 3

Police doubt Taliban claim



A Pakistani security official stands guard at the site of bombing in Shabqadar near Peshawar, Pakistan on Friday, May 13, 2011. A police officer says the death toll in a pair of explosions outside a security force training center in northwest Pakistan has risen to 80. Liaqat Ali Khan says 66 victims in the attack Friday were recruits for the Frontier Corps. The attack is the bloodiest in Pakistan since the U.S. raid that killed the al-Qaida chief on May 2. Ahsanullah Ahsan, a spokesman for the Pakistani Taliban, has said the attack was in retaliation for bin Laden's death. This claim is being disputed by the Pakistani police.

(AP Photo/Mohammad Sajjad)

Bin Laden: Hypocrisy & pornography

SCOTT SHANE

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WASHINGTON — The massive cache of computer files taken from Osama bin Laden's compound contained a considerable quantity of pornographic videos, U.S. officials said Friday, adding a discordant note to the public image of the Islamist militant who long denounced the West for its lax sexual mores. The officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity about classified material, would not say whether there was evidence that bin Laden or the other men living in the house had acquired or viewed the material.

The discovery of the pornography, first reported by Reuters, may not be surprising in a collection of five computers, 10 hard drives and dozens of thumb drives and CDs whose age and past ownership is not known.

But the disclosure could fuel accusations of hypocrisy against the founder of al-Qaida, who was 54 and lived with three wives at the time of his death, and will be welcomed by

counterterrorism officials because it could tarnish his legacy and erode the appeal of his brand of religious extremism.

In a 2002 "letter to the American people," bin Laden denounced U.S. culture for its exploitation of women's bodies in dress, advertising and popular culture.

"Your nation exploits women like consumer products or advertising tools, calling upon customers to purchase them," he wrote. "You plaster your naked daughters across billboards in order to sell a product without any shame.

You have brainwashed your daughters into believing they are liberated by wearing revealing clothes, yet in reality all they have liberated is your sexual desire."

A team of intelligence analysts under the CIA's direction has been working to review the material seized from bin Laden's house in Abbottabad, Pakistan, by the Navy SEAL team that killed him.

Continued on Page 12

By JANE PERLEZ,

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ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Senior police officials said Friday that a suicide attack that killed more than 80 cadets from a government paramilitary force was probably retaliation for an army offensive in Pakistan's tribal areas and not for the death of Osama bin Laden, as the Pakistani Taliban claimed.

Shortly after the attack early Friday, which was aimed at members of the Frontier Constabulary in the town of Charsadda, the Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility, saying it was retribution for the U.S. raid May 2 that killed bin Laden in the garrison city of Abbottabad, about 75 miles from the capital.

But the Pakistani Taliban have recently issued several statements claiming responsibility for attacks they did not initiate, the police officials said, adding that they doubted that the suicide bombing was carried out by the group or that it was in revenge for the U.S. raid. They said the attack was instead probably the work of a splinter group of the Pakistani Taliban that has been fighting the Pakistani Army in the nearby tribal region of Mohmand, where the army has struggled for two years to subdue the insurgents, who are led by Umar Khalid.

Recently, the army opened what it called the third phase of an offensive, suffering heavy losses.

Insurgents in Mohmand have been able to force the Pakistani Army into a lengthy campaign by seeking refuge in sanctuaries across the border in Kunar province in Afghanistan.

Continued on Page 2

POLICE DOUBT CLAIM

Continued from Front Page

NATO forces in Afghanistan have been helping Pakistan by going after the militants as they escape across the border.

Sikandar Hayat Khan Sherpao, a member of the provincial assembly of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, said the training facility that was attacked, at Shabqadar Fort, had been a frequent target of militants before.

"Basically, the threat is from Mohmand Agency, where militants still have pockets and are active," he said.

"I feel that this attack is not in retaliation to the Abbottabad incident. Basically, in the last one and a half months, a new military operation has been started in Mohmand, as the army is going against militants. So this attack can be seen as a retaliation to the Mohmand operation."

Bashir Bilour, a senior minister in the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa provincial government, told reporters that officials were withholding assessing blame for the deadly attack.

"We don't believe in directly blaming any country



Supporters of Pakistan's Tehreek-e-Insaf headed former Pakistani cricketer Imran Khan rally outside the Parliament where Pakistan's military establishment gives an in-camera briefing to the parliamentarians regarding the Abbottabad episode which killed al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, Friday, May 13, 2011 in Islamabad, Pakistan. Supporters of TIP rejected in-camera session and demanded open proceeding for general public.

without any proof," he said.

The bombing killed 82 cadets and wounded about 150 people, said Muhammad Akbar Hoti, the commandant of the Frontier Constabulary.

(AP Photo/B.K.Bangash)

The death toll was expected to rise and could end up being the highest number of law enforcement officials killed in a terrorist attack in recent years, said Liaqat Khan, the police chief in nearby Peshawar.

A second bomber may have taken part, he said.

The suicide bomber attacked as the paramilitary soldiers were about to return to their homes for a 10-day leave after six months of training, Khan said.

The bomber was in a car outside the fort when he detonated the explosives about 6 a.m. The death toll was so high because the men were told to wait for their transportation outside the gates, which provided the opportunity to attack them in a cluster, a provincial security official said.

"There are two occasions in one's life to celebrate: wedding and going home on vacations at the end of six months of training," said Mohammad

Sardar, in his mid-20s, who was admitted to Lady Reading Hospital in Peshawar with a head injury. □



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FBI no-show in NYC terror probe raises questions



Ahmed Ferhani 26, second from left, and Mohamed Mamadouh 20, second from right, appear in court with their attorneys for arraignment, Thursday, May 12, 2011, in New York. Both men are charged with a terrorist plot targeting New York synagogues.
(AP Photo/ Louis Lanzano)

Spillway to open, flooding Cajun country

By H. MOHR & M. FOSTER,
Associated Press

LAKE PROVIDENCE, Louisiana (AP) — Army engineers said they will open a key spillway along the bulging Mississippi River as early as Saturday and inundate thousands of homes and farms in Louisiana's Cajun country to avert a potentially bigger disaster in Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

About 25,000 people and 11,000 structures could be in harm's way when the gates on the Morganza spillway are unlocked for the first time in 38 years.

Opening the spillway will release a torrent that could submerge about 3,000 square miles (7,770 sq. kilometers) under as much as 25 feet (7.6 meters) of water but take the pressure off the downstream levees protecting New Orleans, Baton Rouge and the numerous oil refineries and chemical plants along the lower reaches of the Mississippi.

Engineers feared that weeks of pressure on the levees could cause them to fail, swamping New Orleans under as much as 20 feet (6 meters) of water in a disaster that would have been much worse than Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Instead, the water will flow 20 miles (32 kilometers) south into the Atchafalaya River. From there it will roll on to the Gulf of Mexico, flooding swamps and croplands. Morgan City, an oil-and-seafood hub and a community of 12,000, shored up levees as a precaution.

The corps said it will open the gates when the river's flow rate reaches a certain point, expected Saturday. □

Continued from Front Page

The FBI and the Department of Justice have declined to explain the New York Police Department's assertion that the FBI-led Joint Terrorism Task Force, always a central player in past terror cases, was made aware of the investigation but decided not to get involved. And the U.S. Attorney's office in Manhattan, known for its successful prosecution of several high-profile terror cases for nearly two decades, also declined to comment.

But a law enforcement official briefed on the case said Friday that the FBI backed away because it had "reservations" about how it was conducted by the NYPD's Intelligence Division. The FBI also concluded it "wasn't a legitimate terrorism case," said the person, who wasn't authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

In the past, federal authorities have expressed concern about the Intelligence Division's tactics and its use of a cadre of undercover investigators like one used in the synagogue case.

The NYPD's top spokesman, Paul Browne, said Friday that any doubts about the investigation are unwarranted.

"When someone acquires weapons and plans to bomb the largest synagogue in Manhattan he can find, what do you call it? Mischief?" he said.

Rather than seek the usual federal conspiracy charges, the NYPD worked with the Manhattan district attorney's office to bring a case under an obscure state terrorism law that the office had never used before and that was viewed as symbolic when it was signed only six days after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. The case has been turned over to the office's Investigation Division, which has a history of prosecuting racketeering, cybercrime and money laundering cases — not terrorism.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said Thursday that there was no evidence that the suspects, Ahmed Ferhani and Mohamed Mamadouh, were linked to al-Qaida or any other terrorist organization. But officials insisted the men posed a dire danger that had to be dealt with however possible. □

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U.S. city hosts Dalai Lama at peace summit

By SAMANTHA HENRY, Associated Press
NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — The topic of working for peace brought a crowd of more than 1,000 people to New Jersey's largest city Friday to hear a diverse group of speakers ranging from the Dalai Lama to a former member of the Bloods street gang. The Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader opened the three-day Newark Peace Education Summit by urging participants to work on inner peace as a key prerequisite to making positive change in the world.

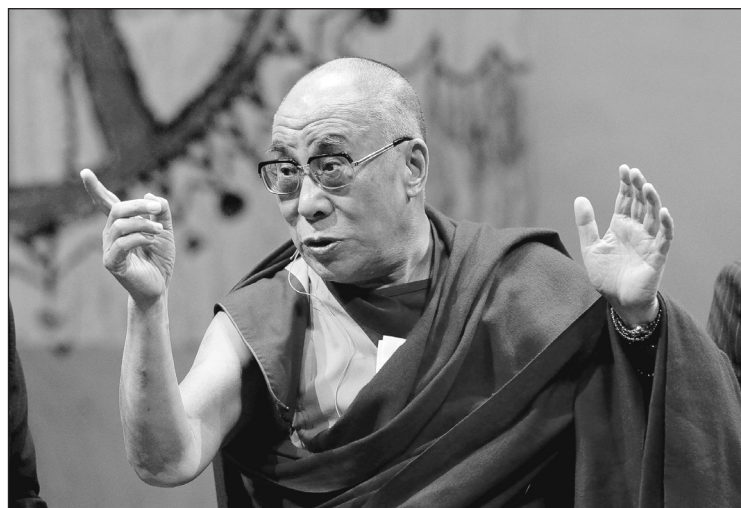
"The change in human society, the initiative, must start with the individual," the Dalai Lama said.

Speaking to a crowd of interfaith leaders, peace activists, educators and community leaders at The New Jersey Performing Arts Center in downtown Newark, the Dalai Lama said it was time to set a new world paradigm for peace.

"The 20th century was the century of bloodshed," he said. "The 21st century should be the century of dialogue."

The Dalai Lama, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, was joined by two other Nobel laureates, American Jody Williams, a peace activist who shared the 1997 prize for her work on banning land mines, and Iranian-born Shirin Ebadi, a human rights activist who won the prize in 2003.

The panel featured several



Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, gestures as he sits on a panel at the Newark Peace Education Summit early Friday, May 13, 2011, in Newark, N.J. The three-day summit on the power of nonviolence will include Nobel laureates, international leaders, local anti-violence activists and the Dalai Lama.

(AP Photo/Mel Evans)

other speakers, including Deepak Chopra, the wellness author, and Wilbert Rideau, who served more than 12 years on death row for a murder conviction. Rideau was granted three retrials and was convicted of manslaughter, then was freed after 44 years in prison and became an award-winning journalist and author.

In a discussion that touched on the many incarnations of violence and the meaning of democracy, Williams said the United States isn't necessarily a healthy example for the rest of the world.

"We need to look at where we are in the continuum of violence," Williams said. "The violence of tax cuts for the wealthy while ripping apart the middle class ... the violence of a nation that spends more than 50 percent of our

budget on defense."

The Dalai Lama countered that despite America's problems he believed democracy to be the best structure for working toward peace.

"I really feel America is the real champion of democracy and freedom, so America has a moral responsibility," he said. He added that people change systems, not the other way around.

"The world belongs to over 6 billion human beings, not governments or religious leaders," he said. "The world belongs to people."

The conference is being organized by New York-based Tibet House U.S. and a foundation run by Drew Katz, a philanthropist and longtime supporter of anti-crime efforts in Newark, which is just west of New York City and is often scarred by violence. □

Panel backs new storage site for nuclear waste

By MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A presidential commission looking for safe ways to dispose of U.S. nuclear waste said Friday it is considering a plan to build one or more storage sites to replace a long-planned nuclear waste dump in Nevada.

The 15-member commission, created by President Barack Obama, did not identify any proposed site for nuclear storage. Nor did commission members agree whether there should be one or several sites for storage of nuclear waste for up to 100 years.

The panel, formally known as the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future, also suggested creation of a new organization, independent of the Energy Department, to locate and build a site for permanent burial of

nuclear waste.

The Obama administration created the panel last year after canceling a long-standing plan to bury nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain, a remote site 100 miles (160 kilometers) outside Las Vegas, Nevada.

The group released a series of recommendations by three subcommittees at a meeting on Friday.

Lee Hamilton, a former Democratic congressman who co-chairs the panel, said the recommendations may or may not be adopted by the full commission. A draft report on nuclear waste disposal is due in late July, with a final report expected by January.

Commission members stressed that the storage facilities would not be the ultimate solution to the disposal of nuclear waste, some of which takes thousands of years to decay. □

Computer error:

U.S. reneges on visas for 20,000

By MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For a few joyful days, more than 20,000 people around the world thought they had beat the odds and won a lottery that gave them a chance to come and live legally in the United States. On Friday, the State Department sent its regrets.

Computer problems had negated the lottery's results, it said. The exercise will have to be repeated, and those announced as winners would have to wait it out with the previous losers.

The decision reopens competition for 50,000 wild-card visas for people who otherwise would have little hope of qualifying. About 15 million had applied, so the bad news for 20,000 was very good news for many others who had thought they had lost. The glitch, which the State Department blamed on an in-house programming error, dashes the hopes of people like Max, a 28-year-old German man. He recently had checked a department website and found what he had hoped for: Out of a random drawing with overwhelmingly long odds, he was one of the lucky few who might get one of the visas.

"It's like you won \$100,000, and then they just take it away from you, and it's gone," said Max, who would give only his first name for fear that full identification might jeopardize his chances in future applications.

The State Department apologized.

"Any results previously posted and available through the website are considered invalid," the department said in a statement. "We sincerely regret any inconvenience or disappointment this problem might have caused."

The drawing, which the State Department calls the Diversity Visa Lottery, is an annual free-for-all established by Congress in 1994 to increase the number of immigrants from the developing world and from countries with traditionally low rates of emigration to the United States. Applicants do not have to have the usual family or employer sponsor.

The lottery selects 90,000 names from a pool of online entrants. That number is winnowed to 50,000 winners through attrition, interviews and educational and occupational rules.

For visas to be awarded in 2012, applicants had to submit entries between Oct. 5 and Nov. 3, 2010. The glitch meant that among 14.7 million entries, about 90 percent of the people picked to move on to the next step came from applications submitted the first two days.

"These results are not valid because they did not represent a fair, random selection of the entrants as required by U.S. law," said David Donahue, the deputy assistant secretary of state whose office oversees the lottery.

Donahue recorded an online video to apologize and explain the situation.

The now-invalidated results became available online on May 1, and about 1.9 million people, including the German, Max, had checked before the problem was uncovered on May 5. Of those who looked up their status, about 22,000 were informed erroneously that they had been selected to move to the next step in the process, the department said.

A new lottery will be held from the existing pool of entries with winners announced in mid-July. Applicants do not need to re-enter.

No new entries will be accepted.

Max said he checked his status on the website on May 1 and was thrilled to find the results. He immediately set to work filling out the necessary paperwork, getting photographs taken and mailing in his next-step application.

In the past few days, he said he had been checking the site regularly for updates, "but they always had an error saying they were having technical difficulties. They only just changed today." □



China Arnold enters the Montgomery County Common Pleas Courtroom in Dayton, Ohio. Arnold, 31, was convicted Friday, May 13, 2011 of aggravated murder in the death of her daughter, 28-day-old Paris Talley, in August 2005. Arnold could receive the death penalty.

(AP Photo/Dayton Daily News, Jim Witmer)

Connecticut unions agree to \$1.6 billion in givebacks

By PETER APPLEBOME,

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HARTFORD, Conn. — With the threat of nearly 5,000 layoffs hanging over them, representatives for 45,000 unionized state employees agreed Friday to \$1.6 billion in concessions over two years to help balance a budget that Gov. Dannel P. Malloy says includes pain for everyone — record tax increases, substantial program cuts and worker givebacks in health care, pension benefits and wages.

Malloy announced the deal after two months of negotiations and the passage of a budget last week that assumed concessions before they were accepted by the unions. He said the deal, which is still subject to ratification by workers, would save Connecticut taxpayers \$21.5 billion over 20 years through structural changes in employee compensation.

The governor, a Democrat who won election in November with strong union support, has carved out a national niche as a politician seeking an approach to state governance different from the confrontational stances taken by Republican counterparts like Chris Christie in New Jersey and Scott Walker in Wisconsin. Despite layoff notices that started going out this week, Malloy and labor leaders maintained a cordial public tone throughout the bargaining.

Malloy hailed the deal as “historic because of the way we achieved it — we respected the collective-bargaining process and we respected each other, negotiating in good faith, without fireworks and without anger.”

Jury convicts US mom in baby's microwave death

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — Jurors in a woman's third trial found her guilty Friday of killing her baby daughter by cooking her in a microwave oven. China Arnold was convicted of aggravated murder in the death of 28-day-old Paris Talley in August 2005. Arnold could receive the death penalty because Ohio is a death penalty state. The sentencing phase will begin Monday. Arnold's first trial ended in a mistrial. She was found guilty in the second trial, but that conviction was reversed last fall. An appeals court found there was misconduct by prosecutors and that the trial court made an error by not allowing a material witness to testify in Arnold's defense. Prosecutors have said Arnold, 31, intentionally put the baby in the microwave after a fight with her boyfriend. The defense had argued that someone else was responsible. Medical experts testified that the baby died after her temperature reached 107 to 108 degrees Fahrenheit (42 Celsius) and that she probably was in the microwave for more than two minutes, dying quickly afterward.

“She died because she was overheated,” said Dr. Marcella Fierro, retired chief medical examiner for Virginia. “She was cooked.”

Messages seeking comment from the prosecutor and defense attorney were left at their offices, but a gag order in the case prevents anyone connected to it from commenting outside court.

Assistant Prosecutor Dan Brandt told jurors in court that Arnold's actions were “even more purposeful” than a slaying with a gun or knife, the Dayton Daily News reported.

“Baby Paris is without life, but she's not without a voice,” Brandt told jurors in closing arguments. “Please listen to her.” Brandt said that Arnold had to carry the baby over, place her in the microwave, shut the door and press buttons. Then she waited while her child cooked to death, Brandt said. Defense attorney Jon Paul Rion argued that the evidence pointed as much to Terrell Talley, the baby's father, as it did Arnold. Rion said Talley's testimony that Arnold said “I killed my baby” left out important context: She only meant that she failed as a mother by allowing the crime to happen and not that she killed her child. □



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U.S. cities redouble efforts to thwart terrorism

By **DON VAN NATTA Jr.**,
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MIAMI – In large and midsize cities across the country, police chiefs and domestic security officials say they have drastically increased counterterrorism operations under the assumption that a “lone wolf” or a small group of terrorists will try to strike on U.S. soil to avenge the killing of Osama bin Laden.

Although there are no known specific or credible threats, many of the officials said they are convinced that operatives of al-Qaida or sympathizers will be highly motivated in the weeks and months before the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, according to interviews with more than a dozen police chiefs and senior counterterrorism officials.

The officials said they were especially concerned that a terrorist plot would focus on a target perceived to be “soft,” like a train station or a shopping mall.

“In the short term, we are facing more danger from lone wolf actors who will see bin Laden’s death as justification in their minds to mobilize and do something here,” said Deputy Chief Michael Downing, head of the Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau in the Los Angeles Police Department.

President Barack Obama echoed concerns in an interview Friday with WLTV, the Miami Spanish-language Univision affiliate, saying, “There is no doubt that when it comes to the American people that after having killed bin Laden there may be a desire on some al-Qaida members to exact revenge, and that’s something that we have to be vigilant about, and we’re monitoring all these situations.”

As for the kind of terrorist plot they expect to see, most officials pointed to the arrests in New York City on Wednesday of two men who the authorities said had intended to carry out a grenade-and-guns attack against a synagogue in Manhattan.

Homeland Security and FBI officials have told state and local police officials that the bin Laden killing could lead to quicker timelines for gestating terrorist plots that had previously been intended to coincide with the Sept. 11 anniversary.

Midsize cities, like Milwaukee, Austin, Tulsa and Miami, have also increased their counterterrorism efforts and preparedness, officials said.

“It does not have to be a sophisticated terror plot to bring commerce to a halt,” Police Chief Edward A. Flynn of Milwaukee said. “The challenge for us in terms of physical security is attaching our deployments to credible information.” □

Mitchell, America’s chief Middle East envoy, resigns

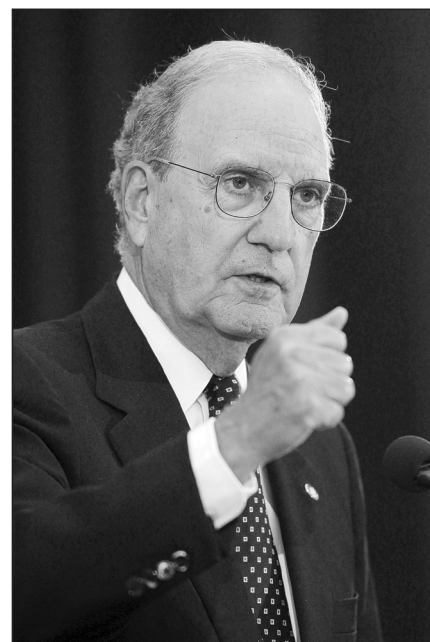
STEVEN LEE MYERS

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WASHINGTON – George J. Mitchell Jr., the former senator who brokered peace in Northern Ireland and investigated the use of steroids in Major League Baseball, is resigning as the chief U.S. envoy to the Israelis and Palestinians amid growing frustration over the impasse in peace talks, the White House announced Friday.

On his second day in office in January 2009, President Barack Obama appointed Mitchell, signaling the administration’s desire to forge an Israeli-Palestinian peace. But despite more than two years of shuttle diplomacy, the two sides appear farther apart today than at any time in years. “His deep commitment to resolving conflict and advancing democracy has contributed immeasurably to the goal of two states living side by side in peace and security,” Obama said in a written statement announcing the resignation and referring to U.S. support for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The news of Mitchell’s departure, while not a surprise, broke at an awkward time. His resignation is effective Friday, the same day Obama



Special Envoy for Middle East Peace
George Mitchell briefs reporters at the State Department in Washington. AP sources say that Mitchell has resigned.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak, File)

is to meet at the White House with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, with whom the president has had an icy, if polite, relationship. Yet the date on Mitchell’s brief resignation letter, which the White House released late Friday afternoon, is April 6, five weeks ago.

In the letter, Mitchell, 77, said he had initially agreed to do what the president called “the toughest job imaginable” for only two years. He largely abandoned his diplomatic efforts after a failed push last year to persuade Israel to freeze the construction of settlements in territories claimed by the Palestinians.

Mitchell’s resignation comes at a time when the

Middle East has been transformed by popular uprisings that have toppled aging autocrats in Tunisia and Egypt, prompted a NATO-led air war against Libya and led to harsh crackdowns in Syria and Bahrain.

In Israel, Palestinian and Israeli officials blamed each other for his failure to broker a deal, although they joined in praising him and his work. □

Wealthy conservatives backing NY gay marriage push

By **N. CONFESSORE & M. BARBARO**,

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As gay rights advocates intensify their campaign to legalize same-sex marriage in New York, the bulk of their money is coming from an unexpected source: a group of conservative financiers and wealthy donors to the Republican Party, most of whom are known for bankrolling right-leaning candidates and causes.

Their behind-the-scenes financial support – about \$1 million in donations, quietly delivered in recent weeks to a new coalition of gay rights organiza-

tions – could alter the political calculus of Albany lawmakers, especially the Republican state senators in whose hands the fate of gay marriage rests. The donors represent some of New York’s wealthiest and most politically active figures and include Paul E. Singer, a prominent hedge fund manager and top-tier Republican donor, as well as two other wealthy financiers, Steven A. Cohen and Clifford S. Asness. At the same time, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, a billionaire businessman and philanthropist who has been a major contributor to legislative Re-

publicans in New York, plans a significant push for same-sex marriage: giving at least \$100,000 of his own money, hosting a fundraiser at an Upper East Side townhouse, traveling to Albany to lobby lawmakers and planning a speech on the issue.

The new donations represent roughly two-thirds of the same-sex marriage coalition’s fundraising, making New York the rare state where a lobbying campaign in favor of legalizing gay unions is not being financed primarily by liberal donors and Democrats. □

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MONETARY POLICY May 2011

ORANJESTAD - During the meeting of its Monetary Policy Committee (MPPC) of April 28, 2011, the Central Bank van Aruba (CBBA) concluded that the current reserve requirement rate of 11 percent and the advance rate percentage of 1 percent remain appropriate.

The MMPC is keeping a close watch on the level of the net foreign assets, which increased further in March 2011 (+1.8 percent), following a slight improvement over the first two months this year. The level of net foreign assets stayed stable throughout the first quarter of 2011, and based on the information currently available the CBA expects their level at the end of this year to be higher than the 2010 level. This is based on the assumptions of increased foreign direct investments and tourism receipts, as well as expected government external borrowings and the renewed refining activity in the oil sector. All things considered, net foreign assets are anticipated for the remaining months of the year to remain at a level which the CBA considers adequate.

During March 2011, credit demand weakened further, as aggregate outstanding credit at the commercial banks (including purchases of government bonds) fell by 0.6 percent compared to December 2010, particularly in the categories business loans and consumer credit. Nevertheless, over 2011 as a whole, the CBA forecasts aggregate outstanding credit to expand by 22 percent. The 12-month average inflation rate, an indicator of price movements on the longer term, stayed within an acceptable range at 0.9 percent, and is projected to reach 3.4 percent in 2011.

Considering the renewed refining activities in the oil sector as well as an expected further pick up in tourism activities and foreign direct investments, economic activities are foreseen to expand by 8.9 percent in real terms this year, following a contraction of 3.7 percent in 2010. □

Rancho La Ponderosa's Explore Aruba by Horse wins

ORANJESTAD - Bobbie Jo Barker, Shore Excursion Coordinator, Princess Cruises Florida was represented on board the Island Princess anchored in the Oranjestad Harbor, by Kirsty Fox, who conducted the short and congenial award ceremony designed to recognize excellence among local tour operators serving Princess Cruises passengers when on the island for a stop-over.

The ceremony included an award presentation, a tour of the ship and breakfast on board, and was attended by Luis 'Lucho' Claro and Ramon Herrera owners of Rancho La Ponderosa Horseback Tours NV.

Rancho La Ponderosa, Explore Aruba by Horse, won the prestigious award based on high ratings and positive passenger comments, said Kirsty, in addition to the tour being of excellent value to cruise ship passengers.

Luis 'Lucho' Claro and Ramon Herrera owners of Rancho La Ponderosa Horseback Tours NV, report that they have already



been recognized by the cruise liner before, as Tour of the Season 2008/2009, and are always pleased to receive such accolades and positive feedback. The Tour of the Season award for 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 comes as no surprise. Lucho is one of the island's most respected horsemen. With more than 30 years of experience, Rancho La Ponderosa remains a top choice among both visitors and local residents as the place to go for outstanding horseback riding experiences.

From the saddle of Lucho's private stock of quality Paso Fino horses, visitors can enjoy the beauty of Aruba touring country trails, escorted by professional and knowledgeable guides such as Judith Jongbloet, pictured

here with Lucho & Ramon. Rancho La Ponderosa offers Paso Fino horses, known for their even temperament and comfortable ride, paired with quality, experienced guides, on safe, scenic trails and best of all, free pick-up & return to the hotels, which all contribute to memorable adventures, cherished long after the sun is gone. □



At Cafe the Plaza

Bier Hier prolongs its title as quiz night champions

ORANJESTAD - Once again, it was team Bier Hier that became the winner of the Plaza's Quiz night series, a 7-week intellectual challenge which racks (or wrecks) the brains of participants on Tuesday evenings at Cafe the Plaza in the Renaissance Marketplace. With four outright victories, an honorable second and a third place they were definitely the best of the teams of quiz fanatics on Aruba. The team won goodie packages sponsored by Pepia Est. Finishing second was team Purgatory; the runners-up went home with three cases of very welcome Balashi beer.

Synergy ended in third and took home a dinner cheque valid for one of the restaurants of Aruba Wine and Dine, the umbrella company of various popular restaurants on the island, among them Cafe the Plaza. A new series of Quiz Nights will be starting on Tuesday, May 17 and those of you who wish to pitch their knowledge against Bier Hier should just show up before 8 pm and play along.

Photo shows the excellent quizzers of Bier Hier together with quiz master Evert Bongers and his lovely assistant Petra. □



Partying at MooMba Beach is becoming a form of art



ter to small, medium and large groups. New manager Raymond says about MooMba: it is a super location for any gathering. The fact that MooMba is right on the beach, with a spectacular daily sunset thrown in free of charge, makes it so special.

The relaxed, casual yet festive atmosphere, the restaurant's different menu selections and live music or DJs make the place into a sure favorite. Last week quite a few parties were held at MooMba, as photos show. □

A dinner under the Caribbean sky!

Las Ramblas
Tapas & Charcoal Grill



The menu features authentic spanish tapas and entrees such as delicious Seafood Paella, USDA Beef Tenderloin & New Zealand Lamb Chops from the charcoal grill.

Open from 6.00pm - 10.30pm. Closed on Sundays and Wednesdays.
Reservation recommended
For reservation call 520-1100 ext. 6154



Visit us at our
NEW location on
La Cabana's Boardwalk

HADICURARI - Whether it is a birthday party, a rehearsal dinner, a wedding or a reception: MooMba Beach is certainly a location to consider. With its wonderful beach front just steps away from a spacious restaurant and a giant bar and a small bar next to each other, MooMba can ca-



It's that time of the year again...

The 12th (!!) Annual Dutch White Asparagus Festival at Madame Janette's

You better not miss it.
As usual our Chefs have created a superb Asparagus Menu for you!
Reservations are required.



Now also open on Sundays

Madame Janette, Bar and Restaurant, Cunucu Abao 37, Aruba Dutch Caribbean,
Tel. +297-5870184 or +297-5874784, e-mail: mjrestaurant@setarnet.aw
Web site: www.madamejanette.com



PALM BEACH – Lady Luck is definitely a resident of The Casino at The Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa, as many lucky visitors have been walking away with cash winnings and other exciting prizes. In only two weeks, The Casino has given out over \$17,000 in jackpot winnings, with the popular tournaments also awarding big bucks. The weekly Poker Tournament saw 1st place winner Shawn Berthiaume, from New York, win a tidy sum of \$500, while 2nd place winner Susie

Jones and 3rd place winner Joe Leger, both from Pawleys Island, South Carolina, and staying at the Allegro, won \$300 and \$170, respectively. The Saturday Slot Tournaments continue to be as popular as ever, with Maria Quevedo winning 1st place and \$300, Richard Raaz in 2nd place with \$200 and Edna Eckmeyer winning \$100 in one week.

The next week it was Filomena Tromp's turn to win 1st place and \$300, leaving Lucas Semeleer in 2nd place with



Employee of the Month

Mise en Place honors Gladys Aguirre

ORANJESTAD - Gladys Aguirre has been selected as Employee of the Month of Mise en Place, the umbrella company that encompasses Taste of Belgium's Bistro, Papillon Restaurant in The Village and CILO City Lounge, where Gladys works. The 33-year old kitchen assistant is always cheerful and ready to pitch in where needed, and all of the above with an ever-beaming smile. Gladys' favorite dishes at CILO are the CILO Pasta and the Steak CILO, and this has not been made-up, it's the truth!

Gladys was born in Cali, Colombia, but she has been living on Aruba for quite some time now. She loves working at CILO with her co-workers and chef Sander in the kitchen; she is also great friends with the waiters and waitresses on the floor.

Pabien Gladys for being Mise en Place's Employee of the Month! □

At The Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa

Lady Luck lives at The Casino



\$200 and George Gatter in 3rd place with \$100.

The weekly Casino Bonanza Drawing also gave out some great prizes, with Maria Leon and Wilbert Maduro both winning iPod Nanos, while Veronica Vermeulen Hughs and Edna Eckmeyer received a Sunday Brunch for two at the Sunset Grille.

Lady luck was truly smiling on both Edna and Wilbert, as they also won a second prize, consisting of a dinner for two at Laguna Restaurant.

Photos show the happy winners at The Casino at the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa. □



Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of **Driftwood Fishing Charters**, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant **Driftwood** in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words



"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

Rates:

\$360 - 1/2 day
\$720- full day
Rates per boat
Max. 6 people



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009

Driftwood Restaurant

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended

menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 3-course menu for just \$24.

Driftwood Restaurant

Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant

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www.driftwoodaruba.com

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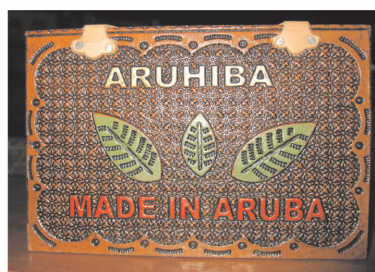
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced

cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba



he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five

cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open from Monday to Saturday from 9am till 8:30pm. And open on Sunday



from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco

farm where cigars are handmade. For tour to the tabaco factory call: 586-0347

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FREE Premium Drinks!
while playing slots or table games

Come Celebrate your Birthday with Us!

Birthday Boys and Girls will receive a \$5 table play chip and one coupon for a special cocktail. Every day all day long

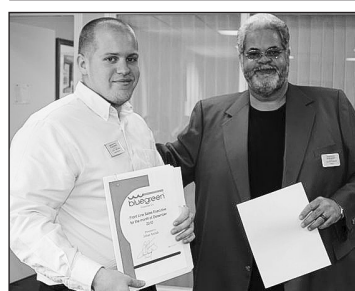
The Casino at the Radisson. Open daily from 12 noon to 4 am. For information call +297 586 4045

Leading provider of Colorful Places to Live and Play

Bluegreen recognizes excellence

EAGLE BEACH – During a warm and informal award ceremony, Julian Chance, Bluegreen Properties NV Director, at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club, talked about the achievements of his company's top performers, praising the results registered at the end of December, at the conclusion of the 4th quarter and at the closing of the fiscal year 2010. Johan Arends and Alberto Groeneveldt were named Sales Executive for December, Johan for the frontline and Alberto in-house. Ann Theophile was honored as in-house coordinator for the last month of the year. Sales manager Solange Kuiperi took center stage as top achiever for December for both the frontline and in-house. For the last quarter of the year Sales Executive Dinaina Rogers joined In-House Coordinator Jacqueline Marlin, Support Staffer Evelyn Boye, Support Supervisor Astrid Franken, and Sales Manager Rudy Richardson, as best performers for the quarter. And while many people were worthy of praise for the quality of work they delivered in 2010, only five were finally slated to receive top honors: Rubert Paesch as Sales Executive of the Year, John Samson as Sales Manager of the Year, Jacqueline Marlin as In-House Coordinator of the Year, Godfrey Halley as Sales & Marketing Support Supervisor of the Year and Marcia Petrocchi as Support Staffer of the Year. For the first quarter of 2011, the Bluegreen Sales Team has been especially busy since announcing its new program, offering dream vacations to local res-

idents who would like to join the Bluegreen Vacation Club for the purpose of travel during the Summer Vacation, taking the family on a Las Vegas or Orlando trip this summer, in any of the more than 50 Bluegreen resorts. Bluegreen at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club, is inviting anyone to come for a delicious breakfast buffet, and for their time, they will be rewarded with a \$100 gift certificate which they can use at one of Aruba's popular attraction. Call 520 1411 or 520 1403 for information or an appointment. Founded in 1966 and headquartered in Boca Raton, FL, Bluegreen Corporation (NYSE:BXG) is the leader in providing Colorful Places to Live and Play® through its vacation ownership resort and residential real estate business segments. With more than 3,500 employees who are passionate about delivering extraordinary experiences for owners, travelers and business partners. Since 1996, Bluegreen has managed, marketed and sold a flexible, real estate-based vacation ownership plan with more than 222,600 owners, over 54 owned or managed resorts, and access to more than 4,000 resorts worldwide. Since 1985, Bluegreen Communities has developed master-planned residential and golf communities primarily in the southern and southeastern U.S., and has sold over 55,000 homesites. Bluegreen also offers a portfolio of comprehensive, turnkey, fee-for-service resort management, financial services, customer generation and sales solutions to third-party developers and lenders. □



BIN LADEN

Continued from Front Page



This image taken from video released by Qatar's Al-Jazeera television broadcast on Friday, Oct. 5, 2001, is said to show Osama bin Laden. The massive cache of computer files taken from Osama bin Laden's compound contained a considerable quantity of pornographic videos, U.S. officials said Friday, adding a discordant note to the public image of the Islamist militant who long denounced the West for its lax sexual mores.

(AP Photo/Courtesy of Al-Jazeera via APTN)

Officials have said the material shows that bin Laden was making notes about new ways to attack the United States and sending instructions by courier to subordinates and al-Qaida affiliates.

Asked about the contents in an interview with Bloomberg Television, Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. said, "I'm not sure we have any plot" that the intelligence review had found.

"On the other hand, he did seem to have a goal around the 10th anniversary of Sept. 11," Holder said. "Certainly, he wanted to harm and was in the advanced operational stage of pulling the levers in the al-Qaida organization."

But the Obama administration also released unflattering video footage of a gray-bearded bin Laden, wearing a cloak and a ski cap and clutching a remote control while watching his own statements on television. The suggestion that he must have dyed his beard for video recordings and was intensely concerned with his image could erode his reputation in the Muslim world as a charismatic and selfless leader.

Also Friday, Jay Carney, the White House spokesman, confirmed that U.S. interrogators had questioned bin Laden's three wives for the first time Thursday, 10 days after they were taken from the compound by Pakistani security forces. He declined to give more details, saying, "I can't characterize the interaction." The three widows, Khairiah Sabar, Siham Sabar and Amal Ahmed Abdulfattah, who is also known as Amal Ahmed al-Sadah, had been held and questioned for days by Pakistani officials before the CIA interrogators spoke to them. Abdulfattah, who is Yemeni, was shot in the leg during the assault on bin Laden's compound by Navy SEAL commandos.

U.S. officials have many urgent questions for them: where other top Qaida operatives are, where bin Laden lived before moving to Abbottabad and whether any Pakistani military or intelligence officers visited the compound. But the wives are believed to have lived cloistered lives, and it is unclear what they may know or be willing to tell. □

Denouncing the United States

By JANE PERLEZ,

© 2011 New York Times News Service

ISLAMABAD — In an unusual, and apparently heated, closed-door session of Parliament, Pakistan's spy chief issued a rousing denunciation of the United States on Friday for its raid that killed Osama bin Laden and denied that Pakistan maintained any links with militant groups, according to lawmakers.

Rather, the spy chief, Lt. Gen. Ahmed Shuja Pasha, blamed an intelligence failure for the presence of bin Laden in the city of Abbottabad, where a top military academy is located and where the leader of al-Qaida was killed in a U.S. raid May 2.

Pasha said he had offered his resignation twice to the leader of the army, Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani. As his presence before Parliament made clear, it was not accepted.

The two generals were called before the extraordinary 11-hour session to answer to the failures of the military and the intelligence agency that allowed a team of U.S. commandos to enter and leave Pakistan in a stealth helicopter operation undetected.

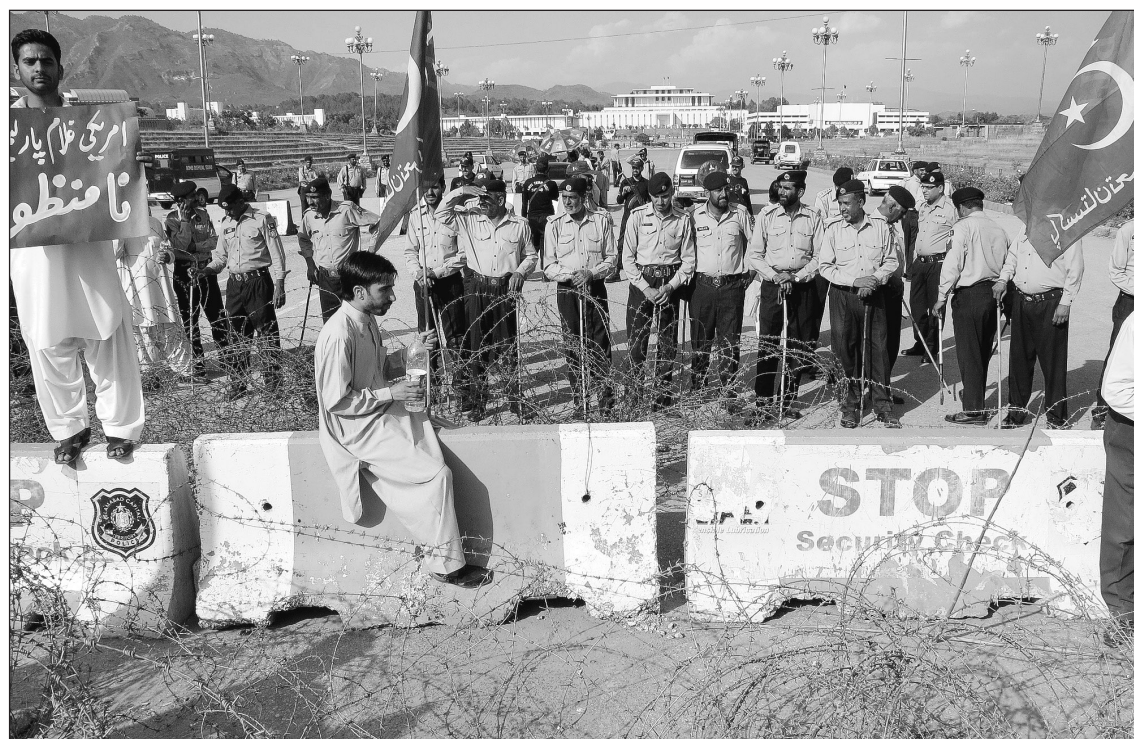
sion was organized so that "a positive message should go out to the masses," Khan said.

A resolution that was passed at the session said Pakistan would revisit its relationship with the United States "with the view to ensuring Pakistan's national interests were fully respected." In that vein, Pakistan's chief spy agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate, or ISI, will not allow the CIA to conduct operations in Pakistan without the full knowledge of the ISI, Pasha said.

The spy chief did the talking. Kayani attended the session, along with the heads of the air force and the navy, but did not speak, apparently to be spared the humiliation. Senior military officials, considered to be above civilian law and a power unto themselves, rarely appear before Parliament, or even its defense committees.

Pasha told Parliament he had a "shouting match" with the CIA director, Leon E. Panetta, over CIA activities in Pakistan when they met recently in Washington, several lawmakers who attended the session said.

Reviewing the history of U.S. relations with Pakistan, Pasha declared that the United States,



Authorities beefed up the security around the Parliament where Pakistan's military establishment gives an in-camera briefing to the parliamentarians regarding the Abbottabad episode which killed al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, Friday, May 13, 2011 in Islamabad, Pakistan. Placard on left reads "American slave parliament is unacceptable."

(AP Photo/B.K.Bangash)

Unusually vibrant criticism by some politicians and the Pakistani press after the raid compelled them to try to repair the reputation of the military and the intelligence agency, which the army controls.

But after recognizing the lapse, Pasha rallied Parliament behind him, several legislators said, with strong criticisms of the United States that elicited thumps of approval from the chamber, including leading members of the Pakistan Peoples Party, the major partner in the coalition that the Obama administration supports.

At the end of the session, the leader of the opposition party, Pakistan Muslim League-N, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, who has been one of the most severe critics of the military since the raid, closed ranks behind the military. The ses-

which has provided Pakistan with about \$20 billion in aid over the past decade, had let Pakistan down at every turn since the 1960s, including imposing sanctions on the country in the 1990s.

"And now they have conducted a sting operation on us," Pasha said, according to one lawmaker. The intelligence chief was referring to the Obama administration deciding not to inform Pakistan in advance of the raid because of fears that the Pakistanis could not be trusted. Before answering questions from the more than 400 members of Parliament from both chambers, the military gave a PowerPoint presentation that included photographs of al-Qaida militants captured or killed by the ISI since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. □

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Huge protests in Yemen as negotiations drag on

By LAURA KASINOF,

© 2011 New York Times News Service

Tens of thousands of protesters poured into the streets of Yemen's capital, Sanaa, and cities across the country Friday, keeping alive their efforts to drive President Ali Abdullah Saleh from office, according to activists and news reports from Yemen.

As the protests erupted, a plan that would allow Saleh to leave office in exchange for immunity from prosecution continued to languish.

The plan, brokered by the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, had been approved by the mainstream opposition and Saleh, but not by the street protesters who are leery of any promises made by the president.

As the two sides bickered over details, one of the council's members, Qatar, announced Thursday that it was "compelled" to pull out of the talks "because of procrastination" and continued confrontations, according to a statement published by the official Qatari news agency.

Qatar and Yemen have long had a troubled relationship. In a statement Friday, the Yemeni government said it "warmly welcomed" Qatar's withdrawal from negotiations. Saudi Arabia, Yemen's largest international donor, is considered to be the Gulf Council's most influential member.

Protesters reported being attacked by government forces in the cities of Ibb and Taiz on Friday.

In Ibb, a small city south of the capital, snipers opened fire on protesters after noon prayers, killing three of them, according to a local doctor who spoke by phone. In Taiz, a hub of opposition to Saleh, a doctor said by email that government forces had fired on the crowds, wounding two protesters.

At a demonstration in the western port city of Hodeidah, protesters raised a Qatari flag, according to a video posted on YouTube, apparently showing their appreciation that Qatar had pulled out of the talks on the Gulf Council deal. □



Anti-government protestors attend a demonstration demanding the resignation of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, in Sanaa, Yemen, Friday, May 13, 2011. Qatar has pulled out of an effort to mediate an end to Yemen's political crisis, blaming the country's embattled president Friday for the impasse and potentially leaving his regime even more isolated among his neighbors.

(AP Photo/Mohammed Hamoud)

Despite fierce crackdown, protesters take to Syria's streets

By ANTHONY SHADID,

© 2011 New York Times

Government and its opponents in Syria claimed victories Friday in a relentless contest of wills whose stalemate may deprive both of a decisive blow in the two-month uprising against the rule of President Bashar Assad.

Thousands of protesters defied a ferocious crackdown and returned to the streets, even in towns that the military had besieged only days before.

But the protests seemed incapable of mustering a critical

mass — as they did in Egypt and Tunisia — and, at least anecdotally, the number of demonstrators appeared to be smaller than in past weeks.

The government said it had subdued some of the most restive locales — namely Baniyas on the Mediterranean coast and Daraa in the south — after deploying tanks and soldiers and arresting thousands. In the face of growing international condemnation and a reeling economy, though, it offered at least the facade of compromise, saying it would begin

what it called a national dialogue next week.

Some dissidents in Damascus, Syria's capital, described a deadlock in a conflict that has already shown the weakness of both the government and the opposition, dangerously exacerbated sectarian tensions in a country still struggling to forge a national identity and perhaps sown the seeds of an armed rebellion in rural regions knit by clan loyalties. "We don't know where we're going," said Louay Hussein, a prominent dissident. □

New Calender



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FREE Bingo

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ROLL THE DICE

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win Cash!

FRIDAY-SATURDAY

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Bingo 3:30pm

\$7 Buy 3 rec. 1 FREE



Double Points

9am - 12pm / 5pm - 8pm

Bingo 3:30pm

\$7 Buy 3 rec.
1 FREE

FREE Bingo

7-8pm. WIN CASH

SUNDAY

Double Points

9am - 12pm / 5pm - 8pm

Bingo 2:00pm

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Martin Beltran Coronel, alias “El Aguila,” center, and 4 other people are presented to the media in Mexico City, Friday May 13, 2011. Beltran Coronel, who was arrested on Thursday, is the alleged successor to the late Sinaloa drug cartel leader, Ignacio “Nacho” Coronel, slain in a gun battle with soldiers in 2010, according to the Army.

(AP Photo/Alexandre Meneghini)

What's at stake with Mexico

JULIETTE KAYYEM
© 2011 The Boston Globe

In his address last week in El Paso, President Obama made a new push for immigration reform. Just a few feet away, the Mexican flag waved from that country's side of the border. There were no decapitated bodies, lootings, or shootings during Obama's speech.

That may seem surprising, as fears of spillover violence from Mexico have captivated our national imagination. We tend to view Mexico through the lens of a border war. Such a focus overemphasizes the threat the United States faces at the border, and underestimates the challenges Mexico is facing internally. We blame Mexico for almost nonexistent violence here, and take no responsibility for how our conduct helps fuel violence over there.

The notion that Mexico is responsible for rampant violence on our own side is a myth based on isolated tragedies such as the killing of David Hartley while riding on a jet ski on the Mexican side of Falcon Lake, Texas.

House Speaker John Boehner paints a picture of utter chaos when arguing that “our first priority must be ending the violence at the border - we really can't deal with other issues until it is secure.” If that's the standard, it has been met. Let's consider, just for the fun of it, Boehner's great state of Ohio. The six largest cities in Ohio all have higher rates of violence and crime than every major American city along the Mexican border. In fact, the speaker's own district in Dayton saw more homicides in 2010 than Texas's four largest border cities combined;

Dayton's population is only about one-tenth of the size.

The reality is a dynamic border, better managed and protected due to investments in technology and increased manpower by the last two US administrations and the Mexican government. It is where legal trade flourishes, people and goods cross without incident, and where local economies grow. Daily, nearly a million people cross the border lawfully at 54 different checkpoints over 2,000 miles.

“We now let more of the things we want through: legal goods and people - and fewer of the things we don't: smuggled migrants, drugs, bulk cash, guns,” said Simon Rosenberg of the think tank NDN, which works on border issues.

On the other side, however, Mexico is waging a war. □

Caribbean News Briefs

CARIBBEAN: FBI down to 1 fugitive in \$7 million heist

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — One by one, and as recently as this week, the suspects in a 1983 heist that netted \$7 million for a militant group have been tracked down. All 17 of them — except for the part-time armored car guard accused of playing the central role in what was then the biggest cash robbery in U.S. history. And if Victor Manuel Gerena is in Cuba, as the FBI believes, there's little hope that authorities will catch him anytime soon. He's charged with ambushing fellow guard James McKeon, hog-tying him and jamming a needle into his neck before loading the money into a rented Buick and driving off from the West Hartford armored car depot. □

New president to take power in struggling country

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — The musician Michel Martelly will be sworn in as Haiti's new president Saturday in front of the collapsed National Palace and a shantytown filled with thousands of people displaced by last year's earthquake — two stark reminders of the challenges faced by the neophyte politician. The performer known to Haitians as “Sweet Micky” is not expected to have much of a honeymoon amid deep frustration with a political leadership that has made little progress toward earthquake reconstruction or addressed many other problems, from a deeply dysfunctional judicial system to almost universal unemployment. The 50-year-old leader, who during the campaign provided few specifics of how he would fulfill his promises, is expected to lay out some of his vision during an inaugural speech. □

Lloyd Knibb, renown drummer dies at age 80

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Lloyd Knibb, an influential Jamaican drummer who played with The Skatalites and helped develop the ska beat, has died, his wife said Friday. He was 80. Enid Knibb said her husband died from liver cancer late Thursday. He had been receiving treatment in the U.S. but returned to Jamaica this week, she said. Knibb's manager, Ken Stewart, wrote on Facebook on Wednesday that he was accompanying Knibb on the trip back to the Caribbean island. “I can only hope we make it back so he can enjoy his family and friends and see his homeland one more time,” he wrote. Knibb was an original member of The Skatalites, a Jamaican ska and reggae band created in 1964. □

Judge orders militant held without bond

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A judge has ordered a 65-year-old Puerto Rican man sent to Connecticut to face charges in the theft of \$7 million from an armored car depot in 1983. Judge Bruce McGiverin ordered Norberto Gonzalez Claudio held without bond Friday for his alleged role in one of the largest cash heists in U.S. history. He said Gonzalez was an “overwhelming” risk of flight given his more than 25 years as a fugitive. The FBI says Gonzalez was part of a radical group that stole the money to aid their struggle for Puerto Rican independence. He was captured Tuesday while out for a morning jog. □

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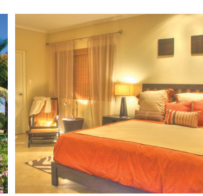
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Gadhafi taunts NATO; regime says 11 clerics killed

By D. HADID & S. EL-DEEB, Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) —

Taunting NATO, Moammar Gadhafi said Friday that he is alive despite a series of airstrikes and “in a place where you can’t get to and kill me.” The defiant audio recording was broadcast after the Libyan government accused NATO of killing 11 Muslim clerics with an airstrike on a disputed eastern oil town.

Gadhafi had appeared on state TV but had not been heard speaking since a NATO attack on his Tripoli compound two weeks ago, which officials said killed one of his sons and three grandchildren. In a brief recording played Friday on Libyan TV, Gadhafi said he wanted to assure Libyans concerned about a strike this week on his compound in Tripoli.

“I tell the coward crusaders — I live in a place where you can’t get to and kill me,” he said. “I live in the hearts of millions.”

He referred to a NATO airstrike on Thursday that targeted his Bab al-Aziziya compound in Tripoli, claiming it had killed “three innocent journalist-civilians.” Hours after Gadhafi’s minute-long speech, the sound of four explosions — most likely a NATO strike — could be heard in Tripoli early Friday.

Also in the Libyan capital, a local activist said Saturday that he witnessed some 50-60 residents attacking military trucks in the western neighborhood of Abu Sitta. He said the events took place in the late evening on Friday. The physician-turned-activist said the residents burnt down a military truck.



Men pray during Friday Prayer in Benghazi, Libya, Friday, May 13, 2011.

(AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

“Everybody escaped after some cheering,” the activist said.

The activist’s statements could not be independently confirmed.

Government spokesman Ibrahim Uthman said the strikes targeted the country’s Agriculture Ministry. The same building, however, was targeted days ago and, at the time, residents said it was a government intelligence building.

Reporters could not immediately verify the information. They may only to leave their hotel in the company of government officials.

On Thursday reporters were shown the airstrike damage by Libyan officials, including one who said Gadhafi and his family had moved away from the

compound some time ago. One missile appeared to have targeted some sort of underground bunker at the compound — a sprawling complex of buildings surrounded by towering concrete blast walls

Many people “driven by their love for me put in many calls to check on my well-being after they heard of the cowardly missile attack of the crusaders on Bab al-Aziziya last Thursday, May 12,” Gadhafi said in the recording, which lasted just over a minute.

NATO shrugged off the statement.

“We are not targeting him, our targets are solely military,” alliance spokeswoman Carmen Romero said in Brussels.

Shortly before Gadhafi’s remarks were broadcast, regime spokesman Moussa Ibrahim

claimed that NATO had attacked Brega while dozens of imams and officials from around Libya were gathered there to pray for peace. Ibrahim said 11 imams were killed in their sleep at a guesthouse, and 50 people were wounded, including five in critical condition.

One of the slain men was wearing beige military clothing.

The alliance, responding to the claim, said it had attacked a military command-and-control center in Brega, 450 miles (750 kilometers) southeast of Tripoli. “We’re very careful in the selection of our targets and this one was very clearly identified as a command center,” said an official at NATO’s operational headquarters in Naples, Italy, who spoke under the alliance’s rules that he could not be named. □

Let's go caps!



By DAVID BROOKS

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I'm fiscally bipolar. Most of the time I think there's no way the two parties will do anything to address the nation's ruinous debt problem.

But some weeks there are rays of hope. This is one of those weeks. There is a lot going on behind the scenes of the debate over how to raise the federal debt-ceiling limit. Something good might happen.

Events are being driven by the Republican leaders. The playing field on the debt-ceiling fight is tilted in their direction, so they want to make this fight as consequential as possible. They want to use this occasion to reshape fiscal policy for decades.

They have the advantage, first, because raising the limit is extremely unpopular. According to a poll commissioned by The Hill newspaper in Washington, only 27 percent of Americans want to raise the debt ceiling while 62 percent oppose it. The only time you can get voters, especially independent voters, to tolerate a debt-ceiling increase is if you tie it to a broad array of spending cuts.

Moreover, the debt limit absolutely has to pass. The Republican Party leaders are convinced that if the debt limit isn't raised and there's an economic catastrophe, all politicians will suffer, but, as president, President Barack Obama will suffer most. He has a powerful incentive to do a deal.

Because they have leverage, John Boehner and Mitch McConnell are aggressively pushing their case. Boehner, the House speaker, gave a speech this week laying out a

maximalist position, pulling the whole frame of the debate in his direction. But the real import of the speech was this: He's going to organize the debt-ceiling debate just as he organized the debate over the 2011 budget a few weeks ago. He's tying the debt-ceiling limit to compensatory spending cuts. That puts the focus of attention on what kind of cuts everybody can come up with. This is natural Republican turf. Congress won't be able to produce specific program cuts and policy reforms in the next few weeks, but it can come up with structural rules that will obligate future Congresses to make cuts and reforms for years ahead. The important argument now is over what kind of restrictions to impose on future Congresses. (This by itself is a sign of just how far rightward the debate has shifted).

Republicans and a few moderate Democrats are rallying behind a spending cap plan, co-sponsored in the Senate by the Republican Bob Corker and the Democrat Claire McCaskill. In its simplest form, the bill would cap federal spending at 20.6 percent of gross domestic product, the recent historic average. If spending rose above that, automatic cuts would ensue.

Democrats like Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader, support a deficit cap plan. If deficits got bigger than, say, 3 percent of GDP, then a mixture of spending cuts and tax increases would ensue.

Liberal Democrats hate the spending cap. As the population ages, it would force future Congresses to transform Medicare. Conservative Republicans hate the deficit cap. It would force big tax increases in years ahead to go along with big spending cuts.

This battle of the caps would seem to take us back to the same old gridlock. But, remember, the debt-ceiling limit has to pass. If it doesn't, there will be ruination for all involved. Moreover, if the two parties do come up with a compromise, the rewards would be enormous. □



By PAUL KRUGMAN

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This has to be one of the funniest political stories of recent weeks: On Tuesday, 42 freshmen Republican members of Congress sent a letter urging President Barack Obama to stop Democrats from engaging in "Mediscare" tactics — that is, to stop saying that the Republican budget plan released early last month, which would end Medicare as we know it, is a plan to end Medicare as we know it.

Now, you may recall that the people who signed that letter got their current jobs largely by engaging in "Mediscare" tactics of their own. And bear in mind that what Democrats are saying now is entirely true, while what Republicans were saying last year was completely false. Death panels!

Well, it's time, said the signatories, to "wipe the slate clean." How very convenient — and how very pathetic.

Anyway, the truth is that older Americans really should fear Republican budget ideas — and not just because of that plan to dismantle Medicare. Given the realities of the fed-

Seniors, guns and money

eral budget, a party insisting that tax increases of any kind are off the table — as John Boehner, the speaker of the House, says they are — is, necessarily, a party demanding savage cuts in programs that serve older Americans.

To explain why, let me answer a rhetorical question posed by professor John Taylor of Stanford University in a recent op-ed article in The Wall Street Journal. He asked, "If government agencies and programs functioned with 19 percent to 20 percent of GDP in 2007" — that is, just before the Great Recession — "why is it so hard for them to function with that percentage in 2021?"

Taylor thought he was making the case for not increasing spending. But if you know anything about the federal budget, you know that there's a very good answer to his question — an answer that clearly demonstrates just how extremist that no-tax-increase pledge really is. For here's the quick-and-dirty summary of what the federal government does: It's a giant insurance company, mainly serving older people, that also has an army.

The great bulk of federal spending that isn't either defense-related or interest on the debt goes to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. The first two programs specifically serve seniors. And while Medicaid is often thought of as a

poverty program, these days it's largely about providing nursing care, with about two-thirds of its spending now going to the elderly and/or disabled. By my rough count, in 2007, seniors accounted, one way or another, for about half of federal spending.

And in case you hadn't noticed, there will soon be a lot more seniors around because the baby boomers have started reaching retirement age.

Here are the numbers: In 2007, there were 20.9 Americans 65 and older for every 100 Americans between the ages of 20 and 64 — that is, the people of normal working age who essentially provide the tax base that supports federal spending. The Social Security Administration expects that number to rise to 27.5 by 2020, and 31.7 by 2025. That's a lot more people relying on federal social insurance programs.

Nor is demography the whole story.

Over the long term, health care spending has consistently grown faster than the economy, raising the costs of Medicare and Medicaid as a share of GDP. Cost-control measures — the very kind of measures Republicans demonized last year, with their cries of death panels — can help slow the rise, but few experts believe that we can avoid some "excess cost growth" over the next decade. □

Doc Rivers bleeds green



Doc Rivers

By **JIMMY GOLEN**,
AP Sports Writer

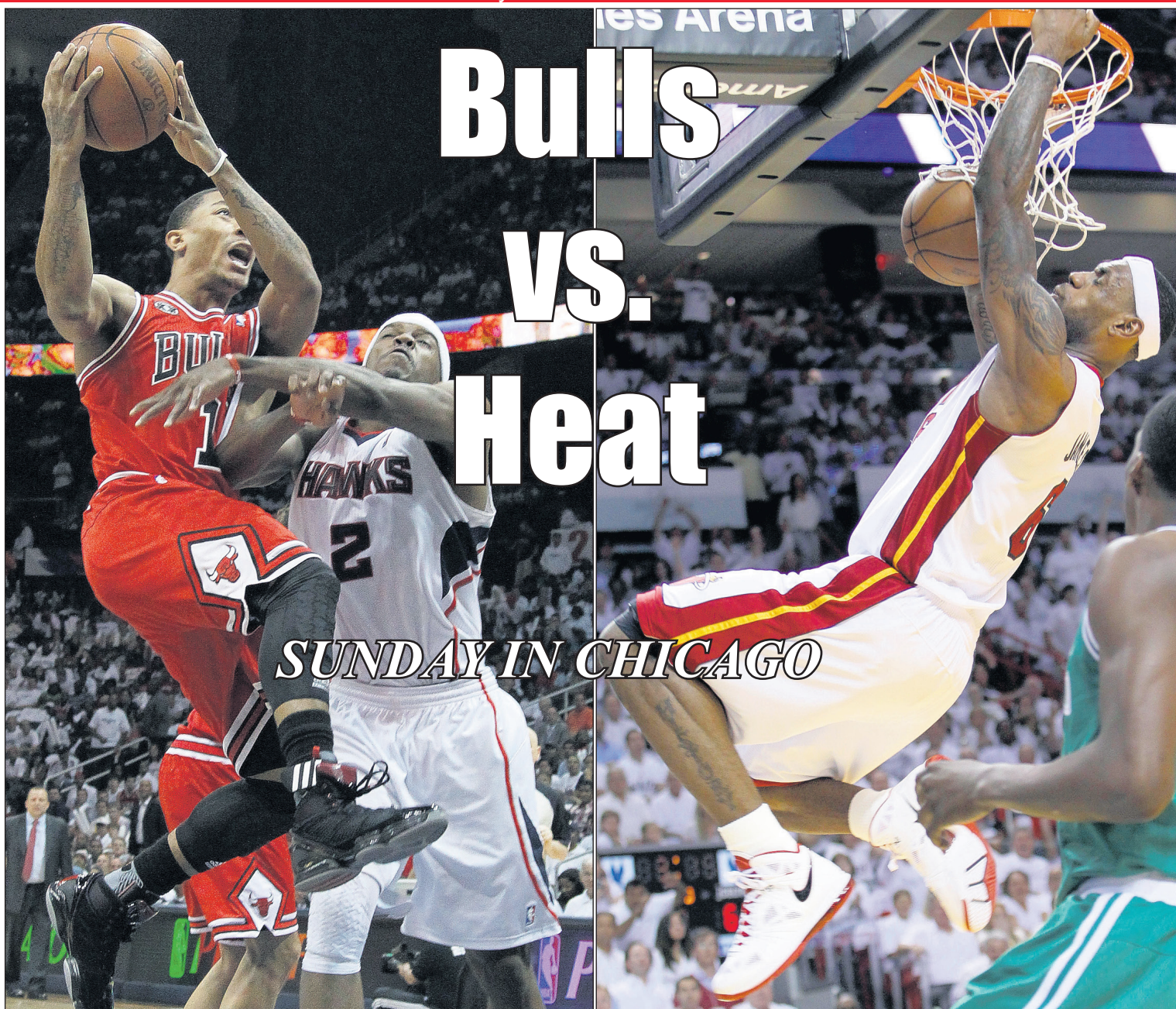
WALTHAM, Massachusetts (AP) — Doc Rivers has agreed to a five-year contract extension as Celtics coach, a deal that would keep him in Boston to help rebuild the franchise when the Big Three era is done. “I think Doc is the best coach in the league. So it’s great for us,” general manager Danny Ainge said Friday in his wrapup news conference at the team’s practice facility. “Doc wants to be here. It’s not all because he thinks that over the next five years we will have the best team in the NBA.”

“He’s part of this franchise. He wants to do what it takes for us to be successful.”

One year after Rivers waited into the summer to make up his mind to return for just one year, he decided quickly on a long-term deal. It was discussed in training camp, shelved during the season and then revisited after the first-round sweep over the New York Knicks in the playoffs gave them a chance to talk. “He just wanted to come back this year and see how it was going to be,” Ainge said. “Doc has always known that we wanted him. That offer was on the table.”

Rivers has coached the Celtics for the past seven seasons, winning the NBA title in 2008 and reaching the finals in 2010 before losing in seven games to the Los Angeles Lakers.

This year, Boston swept the New York Knicks in four games before losing to the Heat in the Eastern Conference semifinals in five games. □



Chicago Bulls point guard Derrick Rose (L) goes to the basket as Atlanta Hawks shooting guard Joe Johnson defends. Miami Heat’s LeBron James (R) dunks as Boston Celtics’ Jeff Green looks on.

(AP Photo/Alan Diaz)

Chicago into first NBA East finals since ‘98

By **PAUL NEWBERRY**,
AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — The Chicago Bulls are off to the NBA Eastern Conference finals for the first time since the Michael Jordan era after beating the Atlanta Hawks 93-73 on Thursday to complete a 4-2 series victory.

Carlos Boozer scored 23 points and Derrick Rose doled out 12 assists, pushing Chicago out to a big lead in the first half that carried the Bulls to a comfortable win.

Chicago advanced to its first conference final since 1998, when Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen were on their way to a second three-peat. The Bulls fell on hard times after that glorious era, including three straight 60-loss seasons, but they have put together a deep, talented team that won more games than anyone during the regular season.

More wins than the ballyhooed Miami

Heat, whose Big Three are waiting in the next round, with a spot in the NBA Finals on the line. Game 1 is Sunday in Chicago. Rose scored 19 points in addition to setting up all those baskets, but this was a textbook performance by the players around him, each of them comfortable in a supporting role and willing to do the dirty work at the defensive end.

Chicago had assists on all but seven of its 31 baskets, and shot just 37 percent (27 of 74) and rarely got an open look.

That wasn’t the case for Boozer, who kept finding space and went 10-of-16 from the field, grabbing 10 rebounds and handing out five assists.

Luol Deng hit some big baskets early and finished with 13 points. Joakim Noah scored 11 and stifled the Hawks with three blocks. Omer Asik chipped in with two blocks of his own. Keith Bogans made only one basket, but it was a big 3-pointer as the

Bulls put it away in the third quarter.

Atlanta had hoped to extend the series to a Game 7, feeling the pressure would be squarely on the Bulls if it came down to a winner-take-all. But Chicago squashed those hopes from the opening tip. The Bulls never trailed, and the lead was 10 by the end of the first quarter.

The Hawks had been in that position before. They fell behind by 15 in Game 5, then fought back to lead early in the fourth quarter. Chicago dominated late in that game for a 13-point win, but the Bulls weren’t about to cut it that close again.

With the loss, Atlanta extended an infamous playoff mark: The Hawks have never advanced past the second round since moving from St. Louis in 1968.

Joe Johnson led the Hawks with 19 points. Josh Smith was the only other player in double figures with 18. The Hawks went 1-of-11 from beyond the 3-point arc. □

NBA Notes:

Cuban silent as Mavericks soar

By JAIME ARON,
AP Sports Writer

DALLAS (AP) — After years of bankrolling one of the NBA's highest-paid teams and paying more than \$1 million in fines for haranguing the refs, Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban is making perhaps his biggest sacrifice yet.

He's gone silent.

The normally loquacious Cuban hardly has been heard from since the Mavericks advanced from the first round of the playoffs. During their second-round series against the Los Angeles Lakers, Cuban was as visible as ever — chatting to Kobe Bryant during a game, joining players and coaches in the post-series greeting line to shake hands with retiring Lakers coach Phil Jackson — but he either avoided interviews or made only small talk with reporters. Asked in an email on Thurs-

day if there was a reason for his recent low profile, Cuban replied, "Nope."

Without Cuban explaining his new approach, speculation abounds. Perhaps someone dared him to see how long he could go quiet. Or maybe he was just trying something different in hopes of a different result for the Mavericks; after all, his club hasn't won any championships in 11 years of trying as he has soaked up the spotlight.

If that's the impetus, and the Mavericks end up winning their first title ... well, there's no telling what might happen. "It should be about the players, never about the owner," Dallas superstar Dirk Nowitzki said.

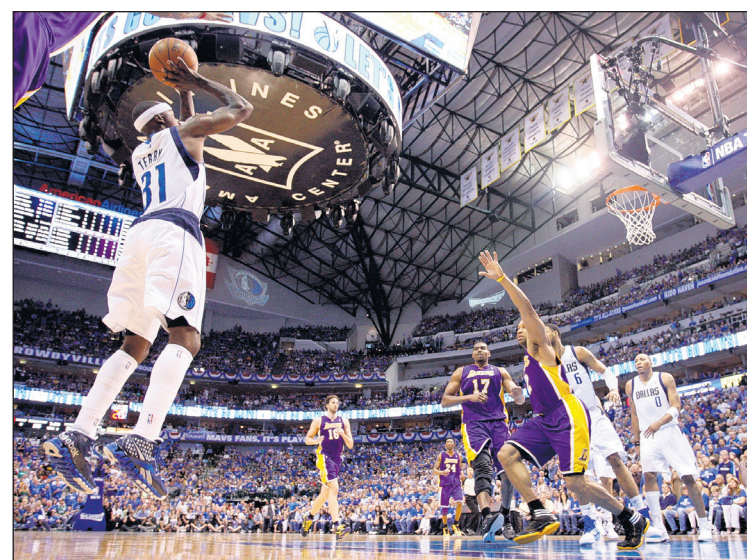
"We played a great series (against the Lakers), we fought hard and battled and that was fun. I haven't really seen Mark since then and

that's probably a good thing. It's fine."

Dallas has won at least 50 games in each full season under Cuban's watch. Nowitzki's rise to among the game's elite players is a big reason, but so is the owner's willingness to load up on quality players, coaches and whatever else he considers might give his team an edge.

For years, that included getting fined for lashing out about officiating. That hasn't happened in a while, though. Nowitzki believes his boss has mellowed.

Cuban has gone from being single to getting married and having two young daughters. Earlier this season, Cuban estimated that he'd missed more games in 2010-11 than all previous years combined, mainly because he was staying home for kids' games and dance recitals instead of joining a road



Dallas Mavericks' Jason Terry shoots against the Los Angeles Lakers during the first half of Game 4 of the second-round NBA playoffs series in Dallas. The Mavericks swept the Lakers.

(AP Photo/Richard W. Rodriguez)

trip to Cleveland and Indiana. "He still gets fired up during games," Nowitzki said. "He's still a huge fan once the ball goes up. He's still in it with his heart. ... He picks his spots better, I think. He's not as hands-on as he was. He's still hands-on for an owner, I think, but not as hands-on as he used to be."

The Western Conference finals will begin in Dallas on Sun-

day or Tuesday. It's the closest the Mavericks have been to a championship since 2006, when they blew a 2-0 lead to the Miami Heat in the NBA finals. Dallas lost Game 3 in the final seconds and Game 5 in overtime, with Cuban going bonkers over the officiating each time. After the series, Nowitzki joined the chorus of those saying the owner's antics were hurting his team. □

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Nadal holds on to No. 1; Djokovic extends streak

By **ANDREW DAMPF**,
AP Sports Writer

ROME (AP) — Rafael Nadal will keep the No. 1 ranking for at least another three weeks following an efficient 6-1, 6-3 win over Croatia's Marin Cilic in the Italian Open quarterfinals on Friday.

Nadal was at risk of losing the top spot to Novak Djokovic if he failed to reach the semifinals of this clay-court tournament, which the Spaniard has won for five of the last six years.

Djokovic also reached the last four, extending his winning streak to 37 matches with a 6-3, 6-0 victory over fifth-seeded Robin Soderling.

Djokovic has won all 35 of his matches this year, trailing only John McEnroe's 42-0 start in 1984.

Djokovic's semifinal opponent will be fourth-ranked Andy Murray, who overcame a slow start to beat German opponent Florian Mayer 1-6, 6-1, 6-1 and become the first British man to reach the Rome semifinals since 1932.

Nadal played much sharper than in his previous two matches when he was affected by a virus. His semifinal opponent will be 16th-seeded Richard Gasquet, who rallied to beat seventh-seeded Tomas Berdych 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 a day after eliminating Roger Federer.

Nadal didn't face any break points on another perfectly clear day at the Foro Italico.

"Yesterday all afternoon I had a fever but at the end of the day I started to feel better," Nadal said. "I started the match with (more) intensity and I was able to move faster and play more with my legs."

If Nadal and Djokovic reach the final, it will mark the fourth time this year they

meet with a title on the line, with Djokovic having won in Indian Wells, Miami and last weekend in Madrid — when he beat Nadal on clay for the first time.

In women's action, top-ranked Caroline Wozniacki overcame two-time Rome champion Jelena Jankovic 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 and will next face seventh-seeded Maria Sharapova, who advanced when Victoria Azarenka retired with an apparent right arm injury.

The third-seeded Azarenka won the first set 6-4, then called a trainer out to the court for treatment after losing the first game of the second set. She winced and bent over in pain during the next two games, then retired.

Australian Open runner-up Li Na of China beat Greta Arn of Hungary 6-3, 6-1 and will face sixth-seeded Sam Stosur for a spot in the final.

Stosur got a measure of revenge on Francesca Schiavone by beating the Italian 6-2, 6-4 in a rematch of last year's Roland Garros final. Stosur nev-

er dropped her serve and faced only one break point.

The crowd of 10,500 cheered loudly each time Schiavone held serve but Stosur's play kept the fans from becoming too much of a factor.

"Of course I would rather win (the French Open) but I am happy to be here and be in the semis," Stosur said. "I think I played really well today and I do not think she played her best but that is because I played well and she could not find anything to do against me."

"Perhaps she was a little bit more nervous with the crowd behind and it made it a little bit more difficult with the expectations of flying high."

The fourth-ranked Murray also showed good clay-court form in Monte Carlo last month, taking a set off Nadal in the semifinals.

"If I want to get to No. 1 in the world then you need to play well on all of the surfaces because Roger, Rafa and Novak — they all play well on all the courts," Murray said. □



Spain's Rafael Nadal returns the ball to Marin Cilic, of Croatia, during their Italian Open tennis tournament match, in Rome, Friday, May 13, 2011.

(AP Photo/Pier Paolo Cito)

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Time to move on...

The end nears for the Yankees' core

By **RONALD BLUM**,
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bernie Williams was the first to go, then Andy Pettitte vanished after last season. Now just three of the New York Yankees' old guard remain in the oval clubhouse of the team's billion-dollar palace. And with Derek Jeter and Jorge Posada struggling, and Mariano Rivera nearing age 42, the end is coming for the generation that restored the pinstripes to prominence.

"It's sad, because you'd always like those things to last forever. They were part of something very unique," former manager Joe Torre said. "I remember Jimmy Leyland said, 'This stuff will never be done again.'"

Jeter, the successor to Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle and Yogi Berra as a symbol of Yankees greatness, has been under the greatest scrutiny of his career.

A month shy of his 37th birthday, he's lost range at shortstop and his batting average declined from .334 in 2009 to .270 last year. Acrimonious negotiations led to a \$51 million, three-year contract that seemed a bit like a 25 percent tip to the \$205 million the Yankees already had paid him. Jeter was hitting just .242 through May 1, and he hadn't homered in 62 games since Aug. 24 before connecting twice last Sunday at Texas.

Posada lost his job behind the plate, relegated to designated hitter this season in the final year of his contract. He's batting .162 entering the weekend, the lowest of the Yankees' regulars, and the switch-hitter is a hard-to-imagine 0-for-24 against left-handed pitchers. For players accustomed to success, the struggles have been an adjustment. Every time they walk to the plate, they've been reminded of their scuffling in 5½-foot numbers on the huge center field scoreboard at Yankee Stadium.

"As a player, it's embarrassing," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "You want to get off that interstate highway and put a number up that starts with a 2."

Girardi, familiar with slumps from his years as a player, is confident they will rebound and works on trying to keep up their confidence. New teammates look at Jeter and Posada as icons — their lockers flank the entrance to the inner sanctum of the Yankees clubhouse — Posada's to the left and Jeter's to the right.

All the questions made them uncomfortable.

"You encourage yourself that it's just a temporary thing and try to look at everything, the big picture," Posada said. "At times you have to let go, like Joe Girardi said, forget about the 70 at-bats you had, the



New York Yankees' Jorge Posada, right, comes in to score on a sacrifice fly by Derek Jeter as Toronto Blue Jays catcher Jose Molina waits for the ball during the second inning at Yankee Stadium in New York.

(AP Photo/Bill Kostroun)



New York Yankees' Derek Jeter follows through on a single during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals at Yankee Stadium in New York.

(AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)

bad ones, and just look at all the positives you had and the 300 at-bats you're going to get from now on. It's not easy."

While they've struggled, Rivera remains the standard for closers. With a cutter that acts as a chain saw, he has a 1.53 ERA and a major league-leading 13 saves in 15 chances. As slim and understated as ever, he is the glue that has held the Yankees together through a remarkable run that has included five World Series titles, seven AL pennants, 11 AL East championships and 15 playoff appearances in 16 seasons.

"Rivera is the one that's still lights-out," Yankees co-chairman Hank Steinbrenner said. "They are definitely legends. What they've meant to us and what they

still mean to us, is tremendous. It's what they still mean. It's not what they did mean."

History only gets you so far in the must-win-now world of the pinstripes.

"You still have to perform. What you did in the past, you did in the past," Steinbrenner said, sounding much like his late father. Fans, he said, put the same demands on owners that owners place on players: "It's 'What have you done lately?'"

Jeter's power outage was the most puzzling. He went 259 at-bats without a home run, the first player with 200 home runs to go homerless in that lengthy a span since Rickey Henderson from June 2000 to April 2001, according to STATS LLC. On talk radio and in the newspapers, there were suggestions that it might be time to drop the captain down in the batting order. The mechanics of his swing and his stride have been as much a constant in New York banter as complaints about

the taxi drivers and the price of apartments.

"I've talked so much about it," Jeter said. "It's been dissected enough."

A 13-for-32 spurt during a seven-game hitting streak lifted his average to a .283, his highest since the first week of the season. Girardi held him out for a game during a road trip because of a sore hip, so it's possible he's been playing hurt. The Yankees have repeatedly said Jeter never admits to injuries if he can avoid it.

"Derek was coming under a lot of fire from fans and media," Steinbrenner said. "For him, at least lately, he's been doing well."

For Posada, who turns 40 in August, this season has brought the biggest adjustment of his career. After he threw out just 10 of 82 runners attempting to steal last year, New York decided his catching days were over.

His batting average hasn't been over .200 since April 7. Proud and wanting to set an example, he seems to be beating himself up inside trying to find a way out of his offensive funk. While his wife and kids try to get him to

relax away from the ballpark, on the field he piles the pressure on himself.

"You're thinking about it all time," he said. "DHing, that's what you do. You overthink. You overanalyze everything."

New York's Fab Five became the Core Four and now is down to the Terrific Trio. Next it will be the Dynamic Duo, and finally a solo act. Like Murderer's Row, this group is passing into history, where their wins will be remembered far more than their struggles.

"They were part of a very special time," Torre said. "These guys carry the message in whatever walk of life they choose to go to next." □

Sports At A Glance

Venus Williams out of French Open

WASHINGTON (AP) — Venus Williams has withdrawn from the French Open, one day after her younger sister Serena did. Venus' agent, Carlos Fleming, wrote in an email to The Associated Press that the seven-time Grand Slam champion notified tournament organizers Friday she wouldn't compete at Roland Garros, where play starts May 22.

The 30-year-old American has been off the tour since January, when she stopped playing only minutes into a match in the third round of the Australian Open because of a hip injury. A left knee injury limited her to just one tournament over the final six months of 2010. Serena pulled out of the French Open on Thursday. She hasn't entered a tournament since early July, sidelined by two foot operations and blood clots in her lung. □

Finland to play Sweden in ice hockey worlds final

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP) — Finland set up a Scandinavian showdown with Sweden in the final of the ice hockey world championship on Sunday after winning 3-0 over Russia with a stunning goal from Mikael Granlund. Sweden advanced with a 5-2 victory over defending champion Czech Republic earlier Friday. "We have to play our game and make sure we're ready to go mentally and physically," Finland captain Mikko Koivu said. Russia will play the Czechs for the bronze Sunday in a replay of last year's final. Granlund lifted the puck on his stick behind the goal and carried it into the net to surprise goalie Konstantin Barulin and the spectators in Bratislava's Orange Arena 5:13 into the second period. □

Football fan convicted of stabbing rival supporter

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — A football fan who stabbed a rival supporter to death during a battle between opposing hooligan groups has received a 33-year prison sentence. The sentence by a Bogota court Friday is the most severe punishment handed down for hooligan violence in Colombia. Santa Fe supporter Miguel Angel Osorio was accused of stabbing Jeider Johan Fonseca during a brawl in a Bogota cafe between rival groups from the Santa Fe and Millionarios clubs in September 2009. Although Osorio was tried under existing statutes, the sentence coincides with the recent approval of a "football law" that cracks down on violence linked to the sport. □

David Toms shoots 68, takes early lead at Players

By **DOUG FERGUSON**,
AP Golf Writer
PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida (AP) — David Toms quit trying to be perfect on a TPC Sawgrass course that appears to demand it. It led to nearly perfect play over two days at The Players Championship.

Toms went 25 holes before making a bogey and countered with enough good shots for a 4-under 68 that gave him a two-shot lead over U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell and Steve Stricker among those who played early Friday.

"I haven't done anything great, haven't made a lot of long putts or chip in or anything like that," said Toms, who was at 10-under 134. "I've just played very, very solid."

McDowell had not done much of that lately.

His U.S. Open victory last summer at Pebble Beach set up a dream year for McDowell.

He won the decisive singles match in the Ryder Cup to lead Europe to another win, then ended the season by coming from four shots behind to beat Tiger Woods in the Chevron World Challenge in a playoff.

Fortunes can change quickly in this game, and so can the confidence. □



David Toms reacts after missing an eagle putt on the 16th hole during the second round of The Players Championship golf tournament, Friday, May 13, 2011, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. Toms finished with a two-round score of 10-under-par.

(AP Photo/Chris O'Meara)

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The nose knows: Allergy season here with vengeance



In this photo taken May 10, 2011, a tulip is shown in Akron, N.Y. Allergy specialists around the country all say this season is or has been a bad one

Associated Press

FDA weighs new dose info for kids' pain relievers

By MATTHEW PERRONE,
AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON — Federal health officials are considering adding dosing instructions for children younger than 2 years old to Children's Tylenol and similar products, a change favored by drugmakers and many doctors.

The Food and Drug Administration meets next week to consider changes to children's over-the-counter formulas containing acetaminophen, the most common pain reliever and fever-reducing ingredient. While safe when used as directed, acetaminophen has long been subject to warning labels because of its potential to cause liver damage when overused.

Next week's meeting will focus on a small group of liquid medicines, including Children and Infants' Tylenol, Triaminic, Little Fevers and various drugstore brands. These products have never contained dosing information for children younger than 2 to encourage parents to seek medical attention for sick infants. Fever in children younger than six months can be associated with dangerous infections, like meningitis and pneumonia.

In documents posted Friday, the FDA said it will ask an outside panel whether that policy should be changed. An analysis by the agency showed that the majority of acetaminophen overdoses in children are in those younger than 2. FDA staffers said the most common causes for the problems include: parents misreading dosing information, giving an adult formula to a child or using a spoon or other administration device instead of the cup included with the formula.

The FDA will also consider requiring weight-based dosing instructions alongside age-based instructions on packaging, along with a universal measuring cup for all children's formulas. Nearly all manufacturers have already taken those steps voluntarily, but an FDA regulation would make them mandatory. The lack of instructions for the youngest children — an FDA requirement since the 1950s — is intended to point parents toward professional advice, but some experts say it causes more confusion and stress than anything else. □

By CAROLYN THOMPSON,
Associated Press

There may be a dusting of truth to allergy sufferers' complaints that this season is, well, a bigger headache than years past.

Heavy snow and rain in some parts of the country have nourished a profusion of tree pollen, while a sudden shift to warm, sunny weather has made its release more robust. Add in the wind, and the suffering skyrockets.

Warnings for a difficult season have come from allergy specialists from New York to Atlanta, Chicago to California.

"This past week has been one of the worst ever," rasped Lynne Ritchie, 70, as she bought allergy medicine this week at a Manhattan drugstore.

Dr. Stanley Schwartz hears that from patients all the time — every year, in fact, he noted with a wry smile.

"Literally, every year is the worst year," said Schwartz, chief of allergy and rheumatology for Kaleida Health and the University at Buffalo. "Now it may actually be, but when it's there and you're feeling it, you don't remember what last year was like."

April was a historic month for weather, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and West Virginia all set

records for the wettest April since 1895.

Pollen counts and allergy attacks vary widely from region to region, locality to locality and day to day, and no one entity tracks the full complexity of their ups and downs across the country.

This year, though, signs really do point to a particularly prickly season.

Dr. Joseph Leija, the allergist who performs the Gottlieb Allergy Count for the Midwest, said last month that tree pollen was unseasonably high in Chicago and predicted "one of the worst allergy seasons ever."

At Holy Name Medical Center in Hackensack, N.J., allergy director Dr. Theodore Falk told The Record newspaper that tree pollen "just exploded" last week because of a cool spring.

In Los Angeles, rain, a heat wave and the Santa Ana winds created an "allergy storm," Dr. Jacob Offenberger said in the Los Angeles Daily News in February. Around the same time, unseasonable warmth had Dr. Kevin Schaffer of the Atlanta Allergy and Asthma Clinic describing this year's pollen levels as "off the charts." A sampling from the National Allergy Bureau's tracking website showed high pollen counts in several cities this week, including Albany and New York City, with their birch, oak and maple trees, and Oxford, Ala., where walnut, pine and willows are in bloom. The bureau is part of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. □

Experts debate destroying last smallpox viruses

By MARIA CHENG,
AP Medical Writer

LONDON — Smallpox, one of the world's deadliest diseases, eradicated three decades ago, is kept alive under tight security today in just two places — the United States and Russia. Many other countries say the world would be safer if those stockpiles of the virus were destroyed.

Now for the fifth time, at a World Health Organization meeting next week, they will push again for the virus' destruction. And again it seems likely their efforts will be futile. U.S. and Russian government officials say it is essential they keep some smallpox alive in case a future biological threat demands more tests with the virus. They also say the virus samples are still

needed to develop experimental vaccines and drugs.

It was in 1996 that WHO's member countries first agreed smallpox should be destroyed. But they have repeatedly delayed a demand for destruction so that scientists could develop safer smallpox vaccines and drugs. That's now largely been done: There are two vaccines, a third in the works, and there are experimental drugs being developed for treating it, but not curing it.

Yet even if most of WHO's member countries vote to set a new date for destruction, the agency doesn't have the power to enforce the decision.

The scientific community remains divided over whether



FILE - In this June 23, 1974 file photo a small Indian child displays the result of smallpox at Hakegora village in India.

Associated Press

the smallpox samples should be destroyed. The respected journal Nature editorialized against it earlier this year, arguing that scientists need the ability to do further research, and perhaps develop new vaccines and treatments in an era of possible biological attack. □

France calls pre-G8 Internet summit



French President Nicolas Sarkozy, shown here, said founders and bosses of major Internet firms including Facebook, Google and Amazon will meet in Paris this month ahead of the summit of Group of Eight (G8) rich nations.

PARIS – Founders and bosses of major Internet firms including Facebook, Google and Amazon will meet in Paris this month ahead of the G8 summit, French President Nicolas Sarkozy said Friday.

“I am delighted that numerous leaders of the Internet world have responded to France’s invitation to come and discuss the Internet at the e-G8 forum on May 24 and 25,” said a message on Sarkozy’s official page on Facebook.com.

The guests named include the founder of that social networking site, Mark Zuckerberg, the executive chairman and until recently chief executive of Google, Eric Schmidt, and Jeff Bezos, founder of online retail giant Amazon.

Maurice Levy of the communications group Publicis, which is organising the gathering, said hundreds of industry players would discuss how the Internet can be used to fuel economic growth.

Another of the organisers said that Sarkozy would open the gathering, which will also discuss protecting intellectual property -- a sensitive issue which has notably set Google at odds with publishers in France and elsewhere.

Sarkozy chairs the summit of the Group of Eight (G8) rich nations on May 26 and 27 in Deauville, France. □

Yahoo shares sink on worries about Alibaba stake

SAN FRANCISCO – Yahoo’s prized investment in Chinese Internet company Alibaba Group has turned into a stock market millstone.

Alibaba’s recently disclosed spinoff of an online payment service called Alipay is raising worries about the value of Yahoo’s 43 percent stake in Alibaba. The fallout is bringing the rocky relationship between the two companies into sharper focus as they bicker over the decision to turn over Alipay to another company controlled by Alibaba CEO Jack Ma.

Investors are disillusioned, partly because Yahoo waited nearly two months to announce the Alipay spin-off.

Yahoo Inc.’s stock price has fallen by 10 percent in the past three days since the company disclosed the change in Alipay’s ownership. That included a drop of 55 cents, to \$16.62 in mid-day trading Friday. □

Study shows:

Cell phones signals really are killing the bees

If there’s one thing people around the world love to do — in fact, need to do — it’s eat. Unfortunately, another thing everyone likes to do is talk on their cell phones. And according to a new study, these two activities are completely at odds because of a cell phone signal’s confusing effects on one key player: bees.

Researcher Daniel Favre of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology has found that wireless signals cause honeybees to become so disoriented that they finally just die. Favre’s team conducted 83 separate experiments that tested bees’ reactions to a nearby cellphone.

The team found that honeybees made 10 times the amount of noise when a cell phone made or received a call than they did when the phone was in off or standby mode.



and when it occurs in a colony, that is not in a swarming process, no more than two bees are simultaneously active...The induction of honeybee worker piping by the electromagnetic fields of mobile phones might have dramatic consequences in terms of colony losses due to unexpected swarming.”

It’s the “dramatic...colony losses” part that everyone should be concerned about. Honeybees are responsible for pollinating about 70 percent of the 100 or so crops on the entire planet that humans use for food.

So-called “colony collapse disorder” among the world’s bee population

has been recorded since 1972. But it wasn’t until 2006 that the drop in the bee population took a nosedive, with beekeepers noting a 30 to 90 percent loss of their bee colonies, up from 17 to 20 percent in previous years. Favre’s study corroborates a 2008 report that showed that honeybees would not return to their hive when a cell phone was placed nearby, which sparked the theory that wireless signals are the problem. There are other reasons scientists believe the world’s crucial bee population is plummeting, things like the use of clothianidin, a pesticide used to treat corn seeds. But Favre’s study shows that our cell phone habit is playing a major role in the current bee holocaust. □

As Fast Company reports, this noise (generally known as “worker piping”) usually signals the bees to leave the hive. But when the reaction is triggered by a cellular signal, the bees just became tragically befuddled.

So, what about a cell phone signal makes bees suicidally crazy? As Favre’s report explains: “Worker piping in a bee colony is not frequent,

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

EU warns debt in bailout countries above forecasts

BRUSSELS – The European Union warned Friday that the debt loads of Greece, Ireland and Portugal will be much bigger than previously forecast, adding to fears that international bailouts are failing to solve the region’s crisis.

The EU’s Monetary Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn said Greece needed to cut spending even further than foreseen in its bailout program. While he fell short of confirming the country may soon need a second bailout — on top of the euro110 billion (\$156 billion) in rescue loans it got a year ago — Rehn said its situation was “very serious” and called on opposition forces to support the government’s efforts.

The bloc’s biannual economic forecasts did paint a more optimistic picture of the economy of Spain — commonly seen as the next-weakest state in the eurozone — which supports the currency union’s hope that the debt crisis won’t draw in any other countries.

Wal-Mart buying minority stake in Yihaodian

BENTONVILLE, Ark. – Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is buying a minority stake in online company Yihaodian as it looks to tap into growing online sales in China.

Terms of the deal and the size of the stake were not disclosed. Yihaodian sells groceries, consumer electronics, clothing and other items.

The Chinese company was launched in July 2008 and has 2,000 workers.

Walmart had 328 stores in China as of Dec. 31, according to a regulatory filing.

“By investing in Yihaodian, we’re continuing to establish a presence in this important e-commerce market, and are moving forward on fulfilling our aspiration of being the leading global multichannel retailer,” Eduardo Castro-Wright, vice chairman of Wal-Mart Stores and CEO of Walmart Global eCommerce and Global Sourcing, said in a statement.

The deal is expected to close within 60 days, the world’s biggest retailer said Friday.

Wal-Mart’s overseas business, which includes China, Brazil, Japan, Mexico and other countries, made up approximately 26 percent of the company’s revenue in fiscal 2011. Wal-Mart said China, Brazil and Mexico contributed some of the biggest sales increases for the period.

Wal-Mart has 8,986 stores in 15 countries. It is based in Bentonville, Ark.

Yum offers to buy Chinese restaurant chain

NEW YORK – Fast-food restaurant owner Yum Brands Inc. said Friday that it is formally offering to buy most of the remaining shares of Chinese hot pot chain Little Sheep.

Restaurant growth overseas, particularly in China, has been a key driver for Yum’s profit growth.

The operator of the Pizza Hut, Taco Bell and KFC chains is offering 6.50 Hong Kong dollars (83 cents) per share to boost its stake in Little Sheep Group Ltd. That is a 32 percent premium to Thursday’s closing price of 4.93 Hong Kong dollars on the Hong Kong exchange.

The move comes after Louisville, Ky.-based Yum said in late April it was considering making the bid.

The offer values all of Little Sheep at about 6.7 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$863.5 million).

The deal would increase Yum’s ownership of Little Sheep to 93.2 percent from 27.2 percent with company founders owning the remaining 6.8 percent stake.

Baird analyst David Tarantino estimates Yum will pay about \$580 million to \$590 million during the deal, including expected option buyouts and excluding the stake it already owns. □



Stocks fall as European financial crisis expands

By **DAVID K. RANDALL,**
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK – Signs that European bailouts will be larger than originally forecast upended financial markets Friday, sending the dollar up nearly 1 percent and erasing the week’s gains in the stock market.

Stocks in countries that use the euro fell after the European Union warned that the debt loads of Greece, Ireland and Portugal will be larger than originally thought. Officials said that Greece needs to cut spending further, which led to concerns that the assistance the country has already received won’t be enough. The Euro Stoxx 50, an index of large companies in countries that use the euro, fell 0.8 percent.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 140 points, or 1.1 percent, to 12,555 in early afternoon trading. The S&P 500 fell 14, or 1 percent, to 1,335. The Nasdaq composite lost 34, or 1.2 percent, to 2,829. The slide turned each index lower for the week.

All 30 stocks that make up the Dow index fell. JPMorgan Chase & Co. had the largest loss, 2.2 percent. Fears of a deepening financial crisis overshadowed reports that found that consumers are feeling more confident in the U.S. economy and that inflation remains in check. Consumer prices rose 0.4 percent in April, the

Labor Department said. That was in line with economist’s expectations.

Most of the increases came in volatile food and energy prices. Stripping those out, prices rose 0.2 percent and stayed below the rate of inflation that the Federal Reserve considers normal.

“Inflation doesn’t look like the risk that everyone feared,” said Doug Cote, the chief market strategist at ING Investment Management.

The prices that consumers pay have risen 3.2 percent over the last 12 months, the biggest 12-month gain since October 2008. Companies like Kimberly-Clark Corp. and Colgate-Palmolive Co. that sell households products have raised prices because of higher commodity costs that have cut into their profit margins. Costs for raw materials like oil, coffee, and cattle have risen more than 10 percent this year. Bond prices rose as investors moved money into assets that are considered safe. The yield on the 10-year Treasury bond fell to 3.15 percent from 3.23 late Thursday.



In this Thursday, May 12, 2011 photo, specialist Jim Ahrens, left, and trader Michael Urkonis work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

No major U.S. companies are scheduled to report results Friday. Nordstrom Inc. lost 2.5 percent after the retailer lowered its full-year earnings forecast late Thursday, due partly to the acquisition of an online shopping site HauteLook. □

Rising food and gas costs push up consumer prices

March 11 earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Most other prices were subdued.

Oil has fallen from \$114 a barrel earlier this month to about \$100 Friday. Prices of corn and other grains have also declined in recent days

Economists say gas and food prices should fall later this year. High prices are likely slowing the economy this quarter. But growth should increase in the second half of this year, they say.

“With commodity prices now dropping back, it looks like inflation is close to peaking,” said Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist for Capital Economics. He says year-over-year inflation should climb to 3.5 percent before dropping in the second half of the year.

Cary Leahey, an economist at Decision Economics, said yearly inflation figures should start to decline in the next several months, although core prices should continue to rise. The Federal Reserve won’t need to start raising interest rates until next year to keep inflation in

check, he said.

The price of gasoline rose 3.3 percent in April. That accounted for half of last month’s increase. Gas has risen more than 33 percent in the past year because of demand in fast-growing developing countries and political turmoil in the Middle East. Gasoline is averaging \$3.98 a gallon nationwide, up \$1.09 from last year.

Food prices increased 0.4 percent last month. That was half the previous month’s increase, which was the largest in nearly three years. The price of fresh vegetables fell. Dairy, meat, fish and eggs all rose. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has said that the impact of higher food and gas prices should be temporary. The central bank has also said it is watching closely for any signs of inflation.

Last October, the core index had risen only 0.6 percent in a year, and the Fed was more concerned about falling prices. That increase was the smallest for 12 months since the core index was created in 1957. □

Toyota’s new Prius model may not arrive for a year

By **YURI KAGEYAMA,**
AP Business Writer

TOKYO – Some buyers will have to wait until April next year for deliveries of the latest Toyota Prius because of shortages of a new battery that’s adding to production delays from the March earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

The launch Friday of the more spacious “Prius a,” or “Prius alpha,” a revamp of Toyota’s popular gasoline-electric hybrid, had been initially set for April. But the March 11 magnitude-9.0 earthquake in northeastern Japan destroyed key parts suppliers and forced a delay.

The parts shortage has disrupted production at Toyota’s Japanese plants and the automaker has said production won’t be completely back to pre-disaster levels until late this year. The battery shortage was an issue even before the earthquake.

The new Prius model, which looks like a station wagon or a tiny minivan, comes in two versions — one seating five people, set to go on sale in



An employee of Toyota Motor Corp. cleans the ‘Prius a,’ or ‘Prius alpha,’ a revamp of its popular gas-electric hybrid, during its launch in Tokyo Friday, May 13, 2011.

Associated Press

North America later this year as the “Prius V,” and one with three rows seating seven people, being offered in Europe mid-2012 called “Prius +.”

The one with three rows of seats, which starts at 3 million yen (\$37,000) in Japan, is equipped with a new kind of battery called lithium-ion for the first time in a Toyota hybrid.

The one seating five people, which starts at 2.35 million yen (\$29,000), and earlier Prius models have nickel-metal

hydride batteries. The lithium-ion battery takes up less space, allowing for more cabin room.

Toyota executive Satoru Mouri said only 1,000 of the Prius with the lithium-ion batteries could be produced a month. Toyota is planning to produce 2,000 of the other model a month, and is trying to increase production, he said.

Toyota is aiming to sell 2,000 of the new Prius a month in North America, and another 2,000 a month in Europe. □

Oil falls as the dollar strengthens



North Dakota Public Service Commissioner Kevin Cramer, left, speaks as commissioners Tony Clark, center, and Brian Kalk, right, listen on Friday, May 13, 2011, in the commission’s hearing room on the 12th floor of the North Dakota Capitol in Bismarck, N.D., during a meeting to discuss an oil spill by TransCanada Corp.’s Keystone oil pipeline in southeastern North Dakota a week ago.

Associated Press

By **SANDY SHORE,**
AP Business Writer

Oil fell on Friday as the dollar rose and concerns eased that refinery operations could be disrupted by Mississippi River flooding.

Benchmark crude for June delivery lost \$1.67 at \$97.30 per barrel in midday trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange after topping \$100 a barrel earlier in the day. Oil has been volatile this week, ranging from \$95 to \$104 a barrel.

Meanwhile, drivers are paying about the same for gasoline as a week ago, with the national average at \$3.982 a gallon, according to AAA, Wright Express and the Oil Price Information Service. Motorists in 15 states and the District of Columbia pay more than \$4 a gallon. The price is 17.4 cents more than it was a month ago and \$1.092 more than a year ago.

Many analysts think pump prices will fall to around \$3.50 a gallon or less by Memorial Day, as refineries sidelined by maintenance and temporary outages produce more gas and oil prices retreat.

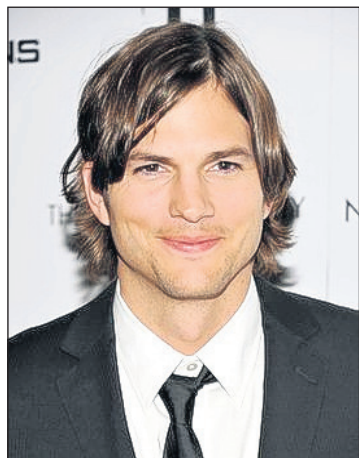
In Gulf Coast states most refineries don’t expect to be affected by flooding from the Mississippi River, although some have lined their facilities with sandbags and moved equipment as a precaution. There are concerns that crude oil shipments and commercial traffic could be slowed by high water, according to PFGBest analyst Phil Flynn.

“The market is still looking at that but with a lot less trepidation than it did earlier this week,” he said.

Traders have shifted their focus in the past two days from supply-and-demand issues toward market basics such as the movement of the dollar, which was stronger Friday against the euro and other currencies. Since oil is priced in dollars, a stronger dollar makes oil less of a bargain for buyers who use other currencies and the price falls. In the U.S., the Labor Department reported that inflation in April rose to the highest level in two years as consumers paid more for gas and food products. Inflationary pressure began to ease in May as prices for oil, corn, wheat and other commodities declined.

In other Nymex trading in June contracts, heating oil fell 2 cents to \$2.8910 per gallon, gasoline futures were virtually unchanged at \$3.0610 a gallon and natural gas fell 3 cents to \$4.222 per 1,000 cubic feet. □

Ashton Kutcher lands on 'Two and a Half Men'



In this Jan. 20, 2011 file photo, actor Ashton Kutcher attends a special screening of 'No Strings Attached' in New York.

Associated Press

By DAVID BAUDER,
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK — Ashton Kutcher will replace troubled star Charlie Sheen in the hit CBS comedy "Two and a Half Men" next season, the network and producers Warner Bros. Television said on Friday.

The deal apparently came together quickly, following reports earlier this week that

negotiations with film actor Hugh Grant to join the show had fallen through. Kutcher is familiar to television audiences through his role on Fox's "That 70s Show," film roles like the romantic comedy "No Strings Attached" and for producing and hosting the prank show "Punk'd."

Kutcher said he believes that "we can fill the stage with laughter that will echo in viewers' homes."

"I can't replace Charlie Sheen but I'm going to work hard to entertain the hell out of people," he said.

Kutcher's quote was the only mention of Sheen in Friday's news release. Warner cut short the show's eighth season and fired Sheen two months ago following his public implosion through hard partying and angry criticism of show creator Chuck Lorre.

"We are so lucky to have someone as talented, joyful

and just plain remarkable as Ashton joining our family," said Lorre, also the show's executive producer. "Added to that is the deep sigh of relief knowing that our family stays together. If I was any happier, it'd be illegal."

Producers did not immediately say how Kutcher would be integrated in a show where Sheen's character was the comic center, portraying an advertising jingle writer with a playboy lifestyle not unlike the actor's own. Jon Cryer portrays Sheen's brother, and Angus T. Jones plays Cryer's son.

Even through reports of Sheen's personal problems, "Two and a Half Men" had continued to reign as television's top situation comedy and anchor CBS' Monday night lineup. A deadline on deciding whether the show would continue was looming with CBS set to unveil its fall schedule to advertisers in New York next Wednesday. □

Is 'Boston' Rob cruising to a 'Survivor' win?

By DERRIK J. LANG,
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — "Survivor: Redemption Island" should have been subtitled "Survivor: Boston Rob Island" because Rob Mariano, the CBS reality competition's tell-it-like-it-is veteran schemer, has dominated the Nicaragua-set 22nd edition with both his on-camera swagger and ability to deftly dispatch his opposition on the way to Sunday's finale. "One man should not have this much power in this game," the 35-year-old Mariano said in the latest installment while wearing a self-knowing smirk. "Luckily, I'm not an ordinary man."

It's not shocking considering Mariano has competed on — and lost — "Survivor" more than any other player, never winning the \$1 million prize. He debuted on the "Marquesas" season nine years ago as one of the game's biggest trash talkers, but he was dumped after the tribes merged. Marino later earned a spot on "All-Stars," where he aligned with "Australian Outback" alum Amber Brkich.



In this undated publicity image released by CBS, contestant Rob Mariano is shown during the filming of the reality competition series 'Survivor: Redemption Island,' in Nicaragua.

Associated Press

Mariano made it to the "All-Stars" finale with Brkich, who ultimately bested him by earning just one more vote. It wasn't a total loss for Mariano. The pair married and now have two daughters. One month after the birth of his first child, Mariano returned to "Survivor" to film the "Heroes vs. Villains" edition. He only managed to make eighth place.

"Samoa" bad boy Russell Hantz plotted Mariano's dismissal, paving the way for this season's "Redemption Island" showdown. The much bally-

hoed bout between the duo, who were sent to opposing tribes of newbies at the start, never sizzled because members of Hantz's tribe threw a challenge and ousted the double loser for the first time on "Survivor."

Meanwhile, Mariano became the undisputed leader of his Ometepe tribe, persuading his colleagues to vote out their smartest and strongest tribe mates, then forming an impenetrable alliance that methodically sent each member of the opposing Zapatera tribe packing after they merged. □



A man stands near the flame of the statue of Liberty, a replica of the US Statue of Liberty, on the Pont de l'Alma in Paris in 2009 to lay a picture in memory of Britain's Princess Diana (pictured at left) who died in a car crash in a nearby tunnel on August 31, 1997.

Cannes: Diana film slams UK royals as 'gangsters'

By JILL LAWLESS,

Associated Press

CANNES, France — According to a provocative new documentary at the Cannes Film Festival, Britain's royals are racist "gangsters in tiaras" and Prince Philip is a womanizing psychopath.

The movie "Unlawful Killing" revives claims that Princess Diana — adored by millions as the "people's princess" but viewed in royal circles as an embarrassing loose cannon — was murdered by the British establishment. The film was screened Friday for the first time at the festival.

It bills itself as "the antidote to 'The King's Speech'" and depicts the royal family as feudal relics presiding over a network of official cronies at taxpayers' expense. Director Keith Allen says, however, it's "not an attack on the monarchy."

"I don't think it's anti-monarchy," he said. "I think it may be questioning capitalism."

The film takes its title from the verdict of an official British inquest into Diana's 1997 death in a Paris car crash. The jury ruled the princess was unlawfully killed, but deflated claims of a conspiracy, blaming "grossly negligent driving" by her drunk and speeding driver and pursuing vehicles.

But the movie by actor Allen — father of singer Lily Allen — revisits conspiracy theories put forward by Mohamed Al Fayed, whose son Dodi was Diana's boyfriend at the time and died in the same crash.

Fayed, the billionaire former owner of London's Harrods department store, funded the 2.5 million pound (\$4 million) documentary. He has long maintained that his son and Diana were killed by the British secret service at the behest of an establishment horrified by her romance with a Muslim man.

The film begins with Diana's prediction in a 1995 letter to a friend that "my husband is planning an 'accident' in my car" and attempts to expose holes in the coroner's inquest.

It poses more questions than it answers. Who was in the white Fiat that witnesses saw in the Alma Tunnel just before the crash? Was driver Henri Paul really drunk or did someone tamper with his blood samples? Why did a French ambulance take so long to arrive?

"I didn't want to make a sensationalist film," Allen said, calling the documentary a "forensic account" of a legal process that "doesn't add up." The film certainly doesn't pull punches. Critics would say it lashes out in all directions, scattering accusations of royal racism, judicial complicity and media laziness.

It includes an array of high-profile talking heads: talk show host Piers Morgan, actor Tony Curtis, celebrity biographer Kitty Kelley and psychologist Oliver James, who brands the husband of Queen Elizabeth II a psychopath. □

'Hard Labor' serves up Brazil sans bikinis



Directors Marco Dutra, left, and Juliana Rojas pose for photocalls to promote the film *Hard Labour* at the 64th international film festival, in Cannes, southern France, Friday, May 13, 2011

Associated Press

By JENNY BARCHFIELD,
Associated Press

CANNES, France — “Hard Labor” starts off like a high-minded examination of class relations in contemporary Brazil. But then one of the characters unearths what looks like a wizened pterodactyl claw.

First-time directors Juliana Rojas and Marco Dutra said they’d drawn inspiration from the Italian political cinema of the postwar through the 1970s, as well as the horror stories of Stephen King.

The result of that eclectic mix is the tale of a middle-class family edging toward poverty and assailed by the black underbelly of the natural world, which keeps encroaching into their urban

lives in the most grotesque of ways. (Besides the oversized claw and other fossilized parts of an unidentified beast, the family finds a chicken embryo in an egg yolk and pulls a maggot-infested mass out of the plumbing.)

It’s like “The Shining” meets a Vittorio De Sica film — astute and revolting, observant and terrorizing in equal parts.

The movie follows Helena, a Sao Paulo housewife whose husband loses his white-collar job just as she’s decided to open a corner supermarket. As the money problems worsen, the gruesome things they stumble across or dig up in their apparently haunted market multiply, pushing the couple to the verge of madness.

“The fantastic elements in the movie bring out a whole other side in the characters and we see them doing things that they wouldn’t if the film remained in the realm of realism alone,” said Dutra and Rojas, who are often in the habit of finishing each other’s sentences.

The film zooms in on Elena’s transformation from a stay-at-home mom swathed in a cocoon of naive innocence into a hard-nosed entrepreneur — often suspicious of and sharp with her employees.

“We tried to make her nuanced, with a personality that’s sweet but with a nasty side, too,” said Dutra.

The movie completely eschews the cinematic stereotypes of the directors’ native Brazil: There’s nary a bikini nor a favela to be seen — just the gray office buildings and functional apartments of Sao Paulo, Brazil’s sprawling commercial capital and home to both directors.

“We’re from the urban middle class, and it was that reality around us that we were interested in portraying when we set about writing the script,” said Rojas. “It’s such a different vision of Brazil, so different from the images even we inside the country see of ourselves, that it has surprised a lot of people.”

“Hard Labor” is competing in the Un Certain Regard selection at Cannes, the elite French Riviera cinema showcase that runs through May 22. □



Director Nanni Moretti (2nd R) and cast members Renato Scarpa, Jerzy Stuhr, Margherita Buy and Michel Piccoli (L-R) pose during a photocall for the film “Habemus Papam” (We Have A Pope) in competition at the 64th Cannes Film Festival May 13, 2011.

Moretti’s Cannes film a wry look at the Vatican

By JILL LAWLESS,

Associated Press

CANNES, France — When word got out that satirical Italian filmmaker Nanni Moretti was making a film set in the Vatican, opponents of the Roman Catholic hierarchy must have licked their lips.

This was the director who took on Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi in his last movie, “Il Caimano” (“The Cayman”). How would he treat a church endowed with enormous wealth and power but tarnished by clerical sex abuse scandals and a money-laundering investigation into the Vatican bank?

Moretti decided to surprise them.

“People said to me, we thought you were going to denounce many aspects of the Vatican,” Moretti told journalists Friday after the Cannes Film Festival screening of his film “Habemus Papam.” “And that’s the very reason I didn’t do so.

“A lot of people expected me perhaps to do something different with this film. They expected something they had already seen, perhaps, and that was a good reason for me not to do what they were expecting.

“Habemus Papam” — Latin for “We Have a Pope,” the expression with which the election of a pontiff is announced — is a surprisingly gentle comedy about a cardinal (played by 85-year-old French actor Michel Piccoli) who suffers an attack of stage fright when he is chosen as the next pontiff. □

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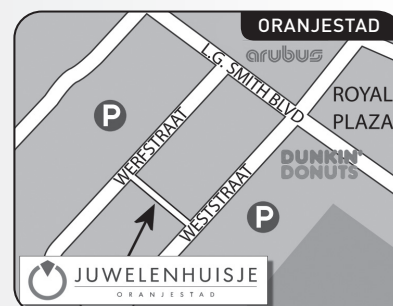
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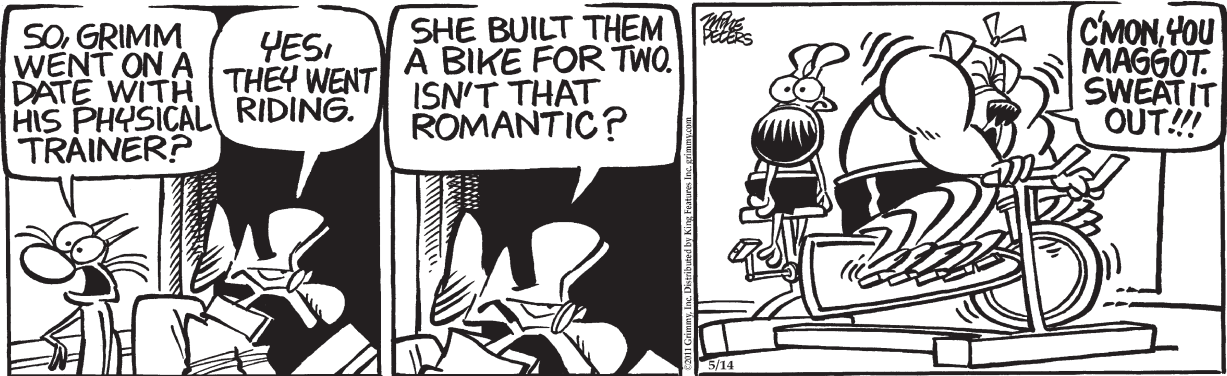
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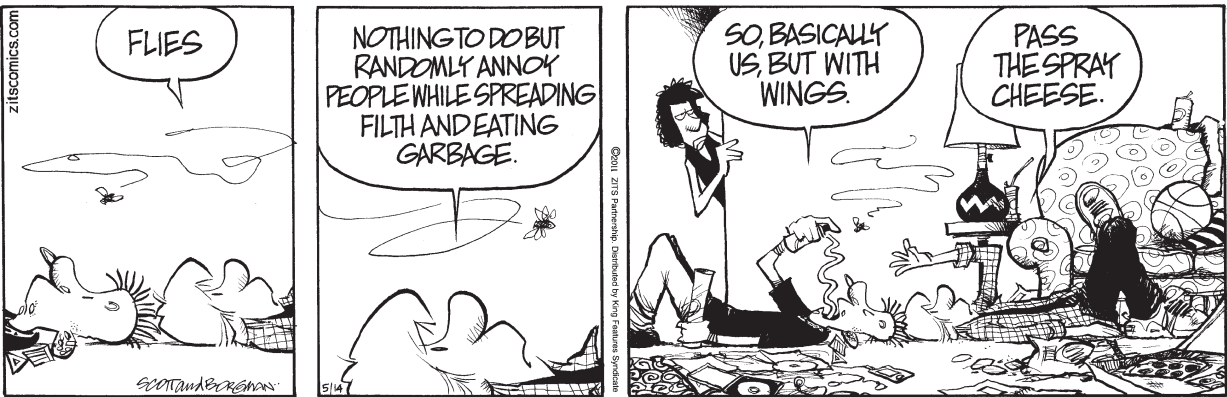
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	9		8	7	2		
	7					5	1
4		6			7		
1				6			8
5				3			9
		5			3		4
8	1					9	
		7	4		9	2	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

5/14

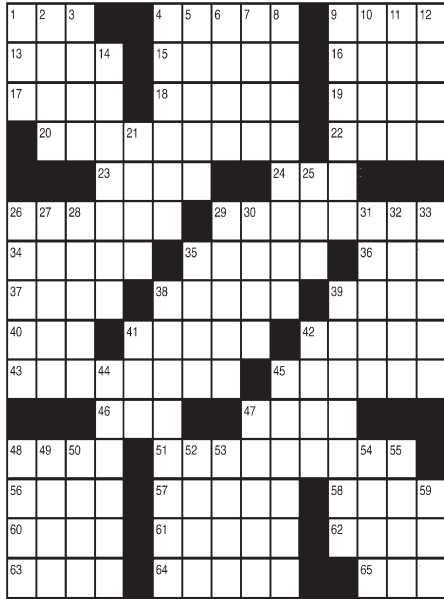
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	5	7	4	2	1	6	8	3
4	8	6	7	5	3	1	2	9
3	2	1	9	8	6	5	4	7
2	3	5	1	6	8	7	9	4
6	4	9	2	7	5	3	1	8
7	1	8	3	4	9	2	6	5
1	9	4	6	3	7	8	5	2
5	6	3	8	9	2	4	7	1
8	7	2	5	1	4	9	3	6

ACROSS

- 1 Perform
- 4 Baker's ____; often wrought-iron kitchen structures
- 9 Victoria's Secret purchases
- 13 Be a tattletale
- 15 Maui greeting
- 16 Pig's comment
- 17 Devil's food ____
- 18 Large couch
- 19 F sharp or B flat
- 20 Careless
- 22 Worry; fret
- 23 Continue
- 24 Actress Lupino
- 26 Hard deposits that form ocean reefs
- 29 Journal keepers
- 34 Performance at the MET
- 35 Dark and dirty
- 36 Stylish
- 37 Facial features
- 38 Oomph
- 39 Path
- 40 Ending for Joseph or Max
- 41 Geico "spokesperson"
- 42 Flat-bottomed boat
- 43 Yo-Yo Ma and others
- 45 Out of breath
- 46 Social insect
- 47 Kimono fabric
- 48 Grouch
- 51 Still pure
- 56 Racing sled
- 57 Fast
- 58 Leave the room
- 60 Musician Billy
- 61 Overact
- 62 Uncommon
- 63 Cribbage pieces
- 64 Discourage
- 65 Fellows



5/14/11

Friday's Puzzle Solved

H	E	L	P		R	A	B	B	I		A	T	O	P
O	D	O	R		I	L	I	A	D		W	A	G	E
R	I	F	E		S	E	D	G	E		A	X	L	E
A	T	T	A	C	K	S		G	A	B	R	I	E	L
					C	O	Y		G	E	L	I	D	
I	D	A	H	O		S	A	D		S	E	A	L	S
T	O	R	Y		N	O	D		N	O	D	U	L	E
A	G	E		R	O	U	G	H	E	N		D	A	D
L	I	N	D	E		E	A	T		L	I	M	A	
Y	E	A	R	N		S	T	Y		S	A	T	A	N
					O	A	S	I	S		F	I	B	
E	N	R	O	L	L	S		A	L	S	O	R	A	N
G	O	A	L		E	T	U	D	E		R	U	L	E
G	A	T	E		P	E	S	O	S		E	D	G	E
S	H	E	D		T	R	A	S	H		D	E	A	D

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5/14/11

DOWN

- 1 Alphabet's start

- 2 Extended family group
- 3 Accept
- 4 Bose products
- 5 Straighten
- 6 Sheltered bay
- 7 Genghis or Kublai
- 8 Chile's capital
- 9 Ornamental Japanese tree
- 10 Public uproar
- 11 Feed the kitty
- 12 Distort
- 14 Panhandlers
- 21 Ms. Falana
- 25 Dehydrated
- 26 Baby's ailment
- 27 Give one's two cents' worth
- 28 Fight off
- 29 Vertebrae separators
- 30 5 ____ 10 is 2
- 31 Sliver of glass
- 32 Add a slight coloring to
- 33 Earn a ticket
- 35 Tube or pipe

- 38 Motioned with the hands
- 39 Taller & thinner
- 41 Bar shelf bottle
- 42 Actor ____ Cosby
- 44 Can wrappers
- 45 Not as tame
- 47 Set of adjoining hotel rooms
- 48 Cut coupons
- 49 Boorish
- 50 Very excited
- 52 Moniker
- 53 Notice; see
- 54 Test
- 55 Urgent
- 59 ____-gallon hat; cowboy topper

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Brits vote iPhone one of the 10 best inventions of all time

By Gerald Lynch

A new survey of 4,000 Brits has revealed that the iPhone is now considered one of the best inventions of all time. Rushing into the 8th spot of 100, it sits just ahead of the flushing toilet and the combustion engine. "All of the inventions included in this list have changed the world forever. Whether it be something as small as a paper clip, to something which changed the face of the universe like the combustion engine, these amazing feats have all been recognized as truly great," said Lance Batchelor, Chief Executive Officer of Tesco Telecoms and Tesco Mobile. "It's amazing to see how much the iPhone is valued, sitting alongside inventions such as Penicillin in people's perceptions and being declared a more important invention than miracle gadgets of their own time, such as the compass." The research also found that more than half (66%) of Britons feel lost without their mobile phones handy, with a quarter would admitting to being addicted to the device.

All well and good, but I know out of a toilet and a smartphone which one I really couldn't live without.

The top 10 in full is as follows:

1. Wheel
2. Aeroplane
3. Light bulb
4. Internet
5. PCs
6. Telephone
7. Penicillin
8. iPhone
9. Flushing toilet
10. Combustion engine



A 16-year-old from the Toronto area used a supercomputer system to find a new drug combination that shows potential in treating the genetic

disorder cystic fibrosis, and won top honors for his work. Marshall Zhang, an 11th-grade student at Richmond Hill's Bayview Secondary

School, received first place Tuesday (May 10) in the 2011 Sanofi-Aventis BioTalent Challenge, a contest in which students conduct their own re-

Associated Press


GENEVA — A team of Swiss adventurers took their solar-powered plane on its first international flight Friday, a 370-mile (600-kilometer) leap from a small airfield in Switzerland to Brussels airport in Belgium.

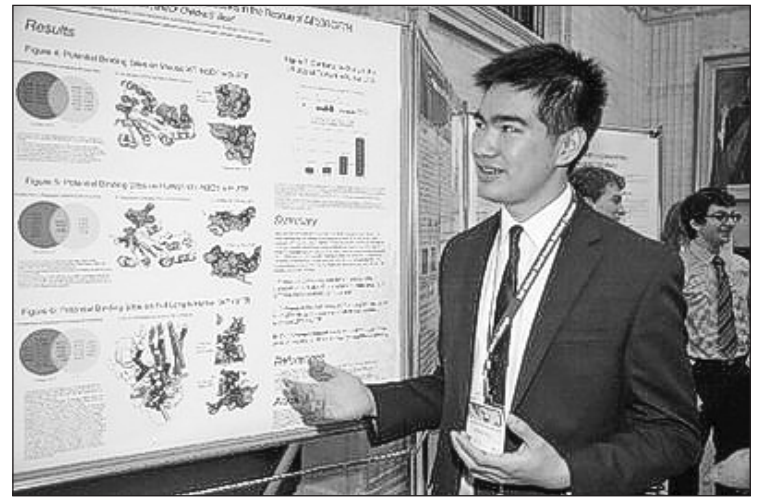
The Solar Impulse HB-SIA single-seater prototype took off from Payerne airfield in Switzerland at 8:40 a.m. (0640 GMT) after a three-hour delay due to strong winds. It is expected to reach Brussels by nightfall.

The plane with the wingspan of a Boeing 777 made its 2009 maiden flight in Switzerland and further tests have all taken place there. Last year it completed a 26-hour non-stop flight that proved the plane can stay aloft at night from the solar energy its 12,000 solar cells soaked up during the day.

The team, led by pilot Andre Borschberg and adventurer Bertrand Piccard, said Friday's flight across France, Luxembourg and Belgium poses a fresh challenge as it requires navigation across international air traffic networks.

They hope to fly an improved version of the plane around the world in 2012.

The flight can be followed on the team's website, where visitors can track the plane's progress live on a map and see key parameters such as altitude, ground speed, battery levels and how much energy its solar cells are generating. 



Marshall Zhang, 16, has found a promising treatment for cystic fibrosis.

search projects with the help of mentors.

Cystic fibrosis is a potentially fatal condition caused by a genetic mutation, or error. It causes thick, sticky mucus to build up in the lungs and elsewhere.

Cystic fibrosis occurs most among white people of northern European ancestry, in about 1 out of 3,000 live births. In the past, most people with cystic fibrosis died in

their teens, according to the Mayo Clinic. It has no cure.

At his mentor's lab, Zhang used the Canadian SCINET supercomputing network to investigate how two promising new compounds acted against the defective protein responsible for the condition. Using computer simulations, he figured out how each of these drugs acted against the protein and discovered they acted on the protein in different spots, raising the possibility they could be used simultaneously without interfering with each other.

Zhang then tested his theory in living cells, and the results exceeded his expectations.

“They actually worked together in creating an effect that was greater than the sum of its parts,” Zhang said.

Zhang is realistic about the future for his discovery; once tested in the human body, promising treatments can turn out to be toxic or ineffective, he said. But even if this combination of compounds doesn't ultimately help treat cystic fibrosis, he believes his research has laid important groundwork for other discoveries. □

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Garzón: Latinoamérica sufre momento problemático

ESPAÑA (AP) - Centroamérica está sufriendo un momento muy preocupante de violencia contra mujeres y desprotección de víctimas de conflictos armados que hay que solucionar con legislación efectiva y real, dijo el viernes el juez español Baltasar Garzón. Señaló que la lucha contra el narcotráfico en México ha forzado a organizaciones criminales a trasladarse a países como Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua o El Salvador y que es necesario hacer algo al respecto. “Debe haber legislaciones efectivas de protección y reparación real de víctimas. Las víctimas, al final, siempre son las grandes perdedoras”, dijo Garzón durante una entrevista con la AP. “Todo este ámbito está en la agenda de

los gobernantes de estos países pero se queda muchas veces en la agenda. Creo que ahí la sociedad civil tiene un papel importantísimo”. Garzón se encuentra en Nueva York para recibir el primer premio por activismo en defensa de los derechos humanos que conceden los Archivos de la Brigada Abraham Lincoln junto a la Fundación Puffin. El magistrado será presentado con un galardón de 100.000 dólares el sábado. El juez, que en estos momentos trabaja como asesor en la Corte Penal Internacional de La Haya, afirmó que “se ha trasladado el campo de acción y de actuación de las organizaciones criminales hacia lugares donde la gobernabilidad y la institucionalidad está más débil y eso hoy en día es Centroamérica”, indicó. Garzón cobró fama internacional en 1998 por promover una orden de arresto del general Augusto Pinochet en Chile por crímenes contra la humanidad. También solicitó la extradición de militares acusados de violar derechos humanos durante la dictadura militar argentina de finales de los años 70. El viernes el juez destacó como preocupante la persecución de periodistas y defensores de los derechos humanos en Centroamérica. También habló de Colombia, donde dijo que el consumo de drogas se está convirtiendo en un problema. Precisamente se espera que Garzón se incorpore como asesor a la misión de la OEA de apoyo al proceso de paz en Colombia. El juez dijo que su labor se cen-



El juez Baltasar Garzón durante una rueda de prensa el miércoles 11 de mayo del 2011 en Madrid. (Foto AP/Arturo Rodriguez)

traría en aspectos relacionados con la Ley de Justicia y Paz, pero que antes de incorporarse necesita la autorización del Consejo General del Poder Judicial español. Garzón enfrenta varios procesos judiciales, entre ellos uno por supuesta prevaricación durante la investigación de asuntos como los crímenes del franquismo. Dijo que la situación de conflicto armado en Colombia “es difícil”, pero que en el país existe una “gran convicción” por resolver esos problemas. “Tenemos un compromiso claro de la presidencia de la república por colaborar con las instituciones”. Para el juez, “es importante que esa actividad no se aleje demasiado de la sociedad civil y organizaciones de derechos

humanos, porque tienen un papel dinamizador de la sensibilidad de las víctimas muy importante. Implementar todo lo que se refiere al ámbito de protección de las víctimas es un reto fundamental”. Sobre la petición del presidente boliviano Evo Morales para que lo asesore en una demanda que quiere presentar contra Chile en una disputa por una salida al Pacífico litoral, dijo que no puede atender a la solicitud. “Le agradezco que me haya llamado (Morales) pero yo soy juez. Como juez, yo no puedo justificar ninguna actividad que sea ajena a la actividad judicial y si además se concreta finalmente mi integración en el proyecto de apoyo en Colombia tampoco podría”. □

En Guatemala

Aumentan muertes violentas

GUATEMALA - Guatemala registró un aumento de las personas que murieron en forma violenta durante los cuatro primeros meses de 2011, en comparación con el mismo período del año anterior, informó la Procuraduría de Derechos Humanos (PDH). Un informe de la Procuraduría indicó que el registro fue de 1,948 personas, 22 fallecidos más que entre enero y abril de 2010. “Apenas vamos por el cuarto mes del año y si la tendencia permanece, quiere decir que no se ha reducido la dimensión de gravedad de estos índices de violencia. Seguimos sin ver resultados positivos, si hay un incremento de muertes quiere decir que todo lo que se haya podido hacer, por lo visto, ha sido ineficaz”, dijo Conrado Martínez, Director de estudios y análisis a cargo de la elaboración del informe. El informe fue presentado el jueves y la PDH informó que fue realizado con base a datos proporcionados por la Policía Nacional Civil. □

Colombia:

Amnistía Internacional considera a gobierno “menos hostil” con activistas

COLOMBIA (AP) - Una nueva postura del gobierno del presidente Juan Manuel Santos, “menos hostil” hacia los activistas de derechos humanos que la de su predecesor, fue saludada por Amnistía Internacional, AI, que a la vez pidió que ese discurso se traduzca en hechos concretos con menos amenazas y esclarecer asesinatos. La oficina del vicepresidente colombiano Angelino Garzón, encargada de los asuntos de derechos humanos, no respondió de inmediato repetidas llamadas de la AP en busca de un comentario sobre un informe de Amnistía Internacional. “La nueva postura es sumamente importante...pero Amnistía Internacional quiere ver los cambios en el terreno”, dijo en la jornada Marcelo Pollack, especialista en Colombia para AI. En Colombia “ha habido ciertas mejoras,

pero la población civil...siguió sufriendo la peor parte” del conflicto y, por ejemplo, al menos 122 indígenas murieron el año pasado como “blanco directo” de las partes en conflicto, agregó Pollack en diálogo telefónico desde Londres, donde AI presentó su informe anual sobre el estado de los derechos humanos en el mundo. En 2009 los indígenas muertos en razón del conflicto fueron al menos 111, según datos de la Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia (ONIC), cuyos datos sobre las víctimas del año pasado alimentaron el informe de AI. Amnistía también citó que sólo en 2010 se reportaron al menos 280.000 personas desplazadas por la violencia, frente a los 286.000 desplazados del año 2009. El gobierno además presentó a fines del año pasado un proyecto de ley “sobre

reparación a las víctimas y restitución de tierras, que según afirmó beneficiaría a los afectados por abusos contra los derechos humanos”, indicó AI en su informe en el capítulo de cinco páginas dedicado a Colombia. “Sin embargo, las crecientes amenazas contra dirigentes de comunidades desplazadas y los homicidios de algunos de ellos y de quienes pedían la devolución de tierras robadas pusieron en peligro estos esfuerzos” por la restitución de lotes, agregó AI. En el 2010 se reportó el asesinato de al menos ocho de estos líderes que demandaban el retorno de sus tierras, según datos de la no gubernamental colombiana Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento (CODHES). En lo que va de 2011 han sido asesinados seis líderes y personas en situación de desplazamiento, de acuerdo con Codhes. □

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